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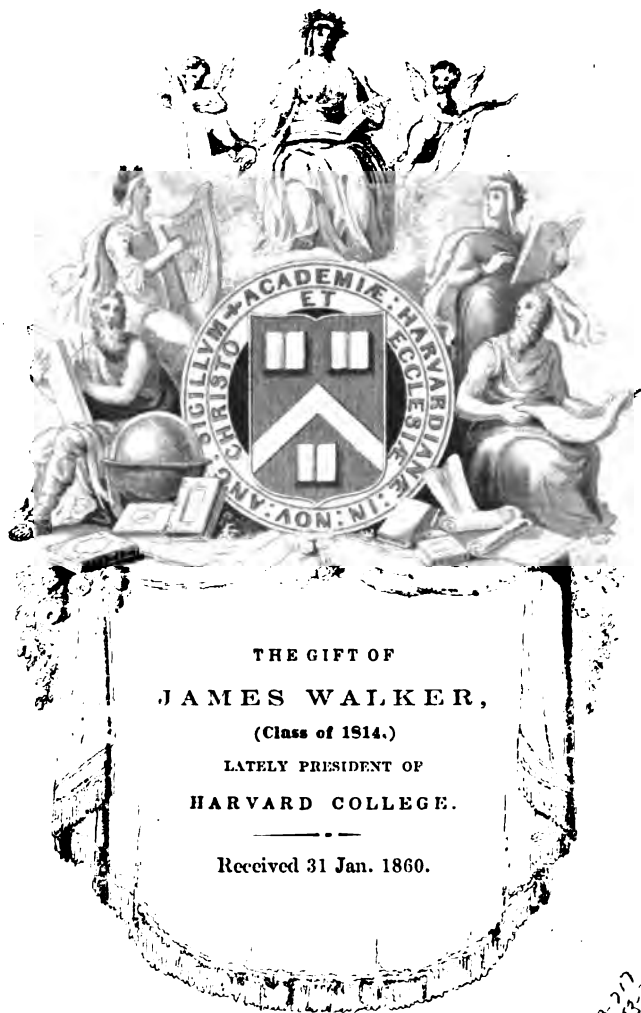
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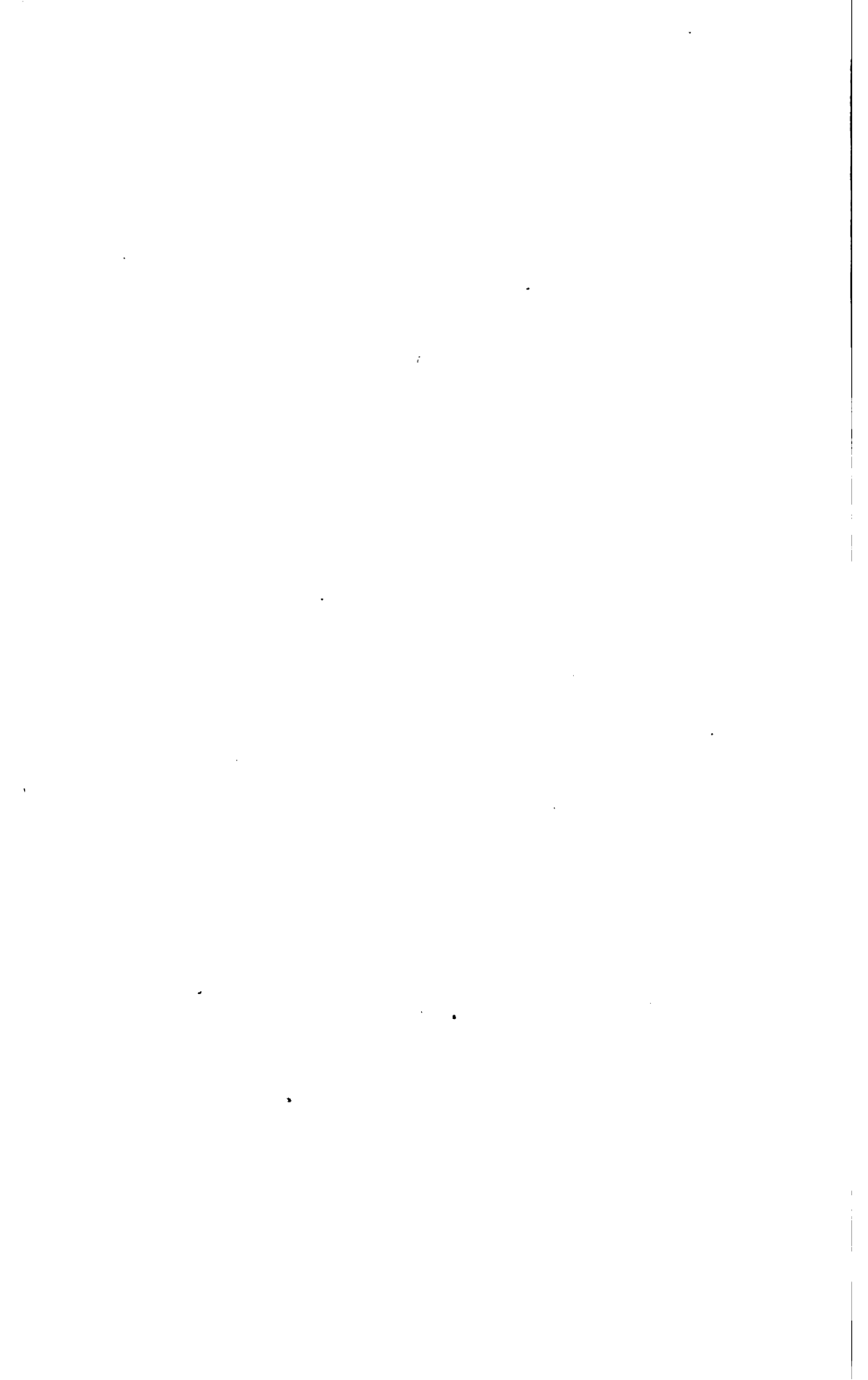


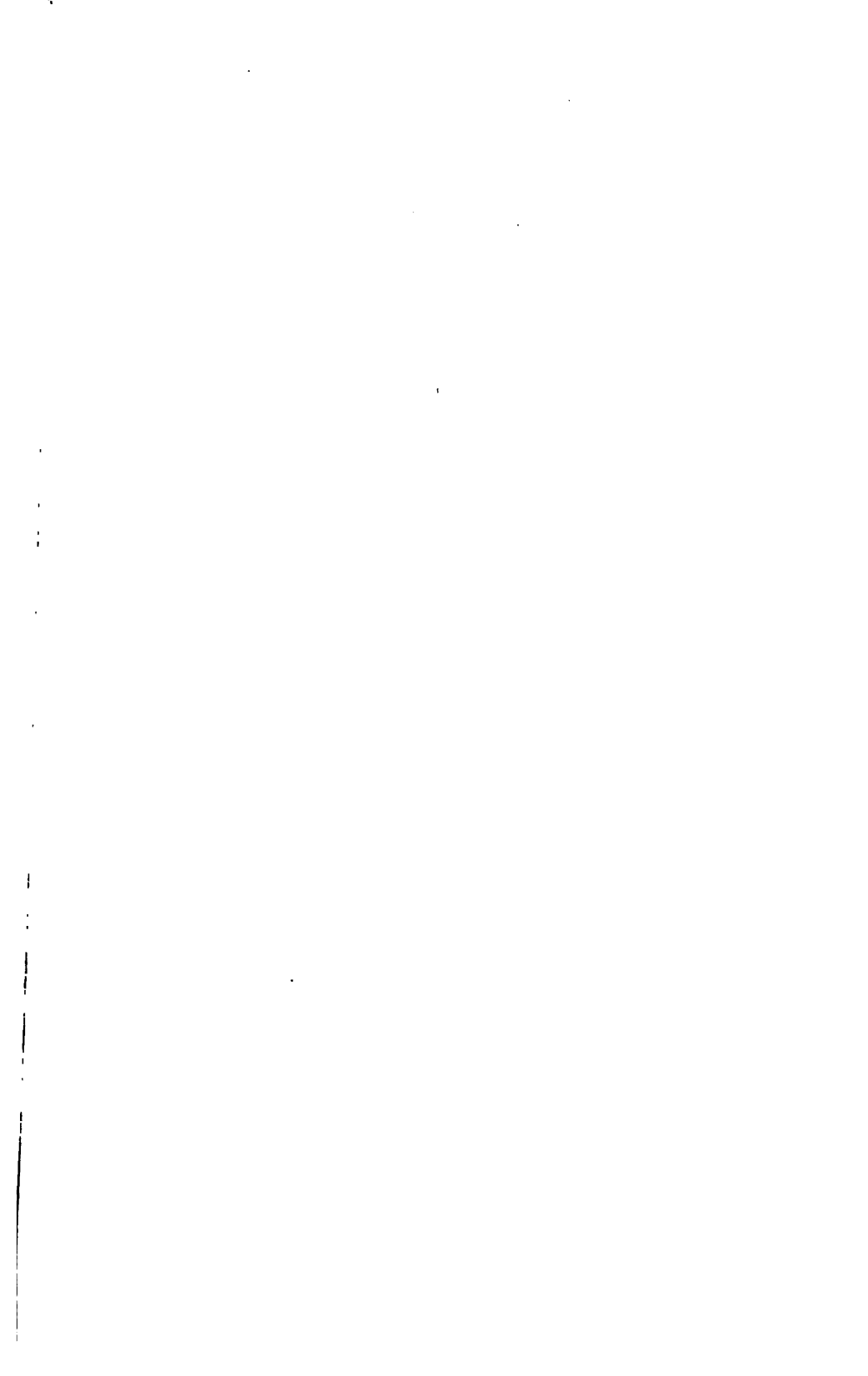
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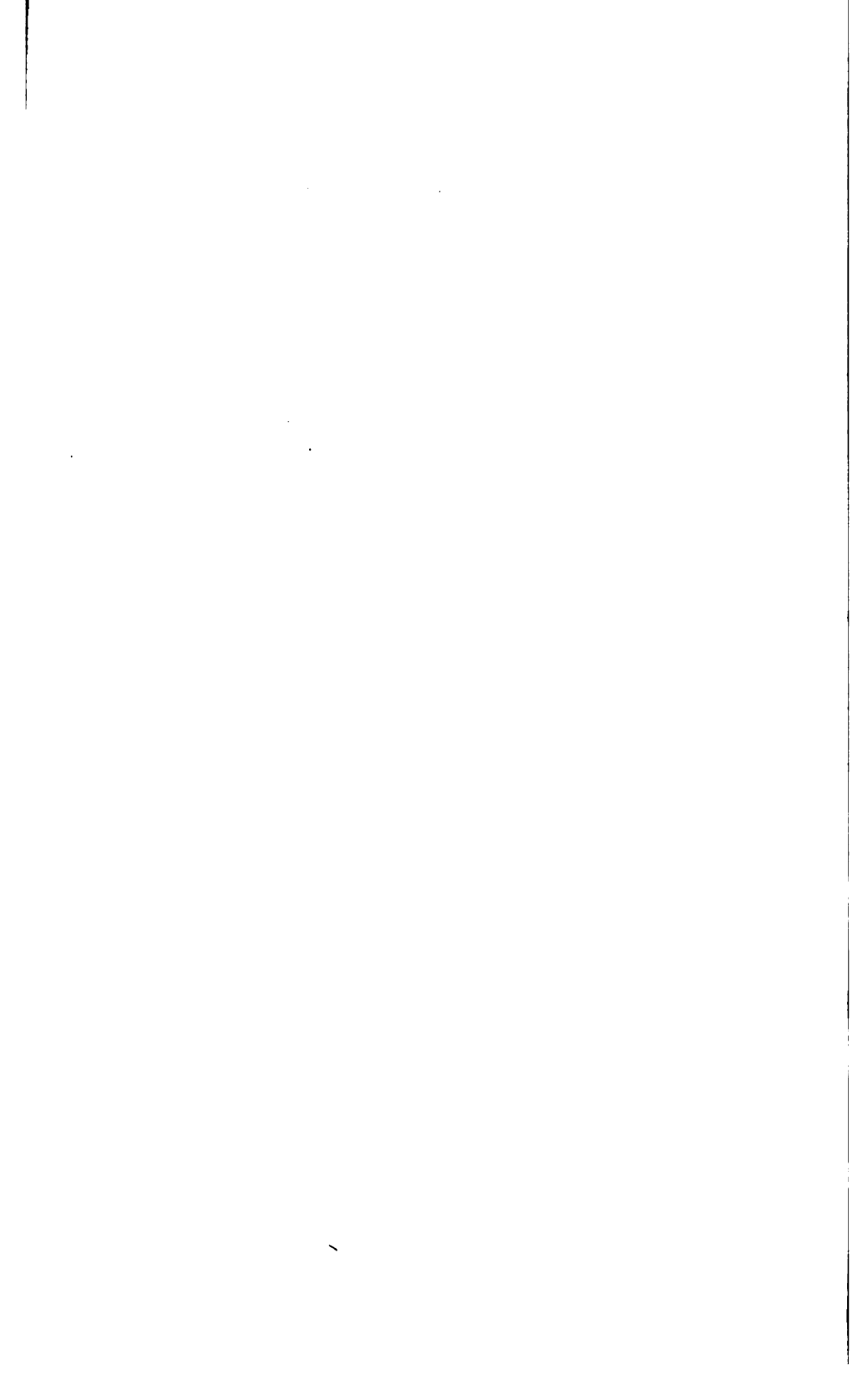
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MEMOIRS

OF

THE LATE

DR. HENRY BATHURST,

LORD BISHOP OF NORWICH.

BY THE REV. HENRY BATHURST, LL.B.

ARCHDEACON OF NORWICH;

RECTOR OF NORTH CREAK IN THE COUNTY OF NORFOLK, AND OF HOLLESLEY

IN THE COUNTY OF SUFFOLK; AND LATE FELLOW OF

NEW COLLEGE, OXFORD.

TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. I.

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LETTER DEDICATORY

TO HER MAJESTY

V I C T O R I A,

QUEEN OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN
AND IRELAND.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR MAJESTY;

I venture, though without application, to dedicate this work to you, because your father was attached to my father, as will appear from a letter in this memoir given; and because they espoused the same public principles, which, rightly understood and judiciously applied, must be identified with your throne.

I dedicate to you a sketch of a life extended over the space of nearly a century, and spent in acts of private and of public benevolence; of a man whose opinions were in advance (at least till recently) of the age in which he lived, and perhaps even still may be

said to be in advance ; of a man who stood alone as a bishop in the Church of England, in the day of Ireland's adversity, a champion (to his own and his family's cost) of justice to Ireland—visited with the severest trials—proscribed through political necessity by tories who sincerely respected him—and neglected, and his family cruelly treated, by some of those public men who most profusely lauded him.

It is with great pain that I have felt compelled, through part of these pages and documents, to make what must in effect be a personal appeal to your Majesty: but to your Majesty's unsophisticated feelings and natural sense of justice and honour, I do appeal, after an impartial review of documents and facts, some of which nothing but a sense of imperious necessity could have induced me to give ; and I feel that I shall not appeal in vain, seeing that the almost universal voice of the country cries out for a new modification of your Majesty's councils, which shall comprise men of liberal principles, and at the same time conservative of the ancient institutions of the country, and who will do what is just and honourable and liberal both by individuals and the public.

I repeat, that there are passages in this work which even yet a sense of necessity alone could have induced me to insert, though I trust I have at last inserted

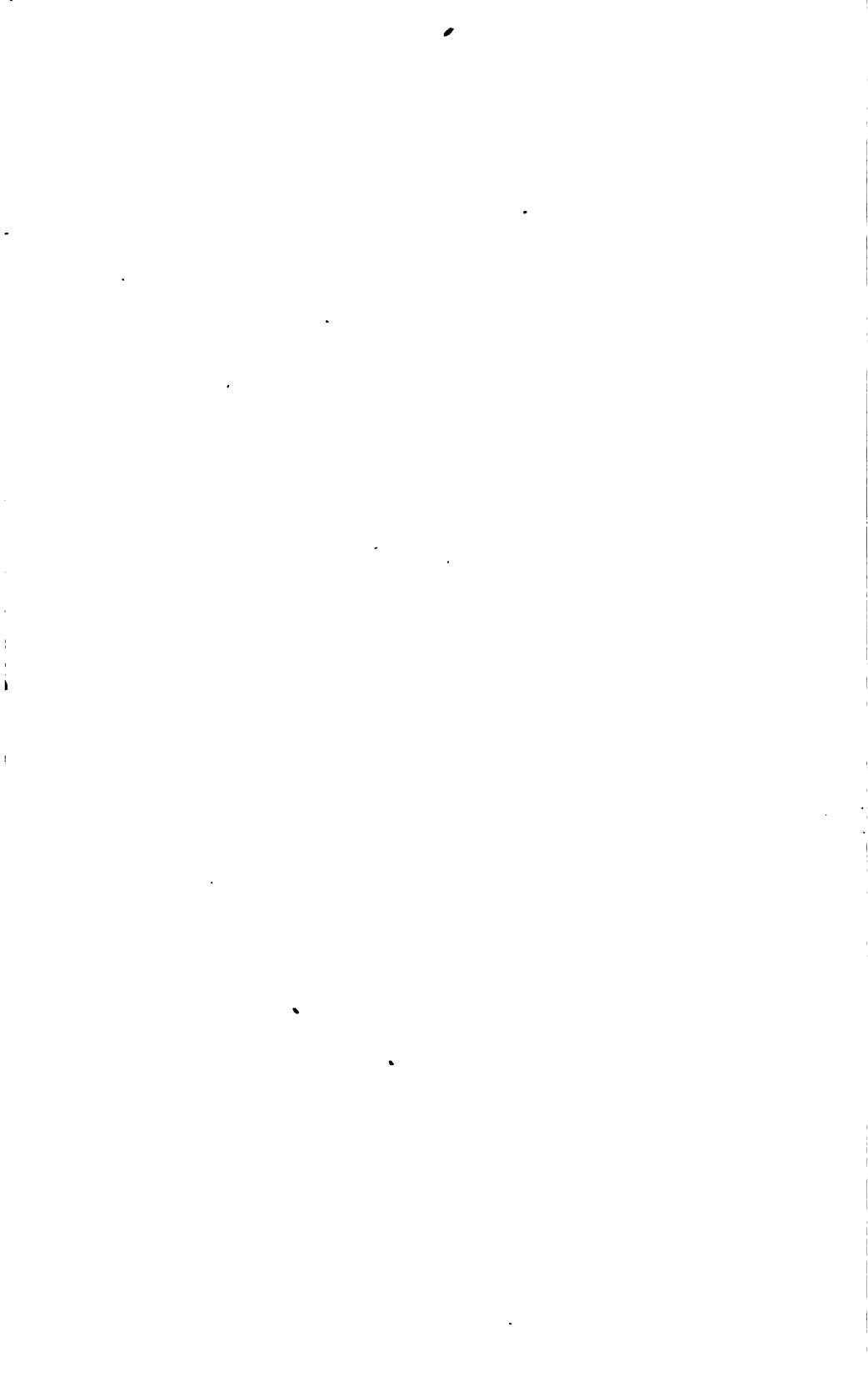
nothing which can be seriously objected to by any one. The strong remonstrances of a most honourable and amiable man, of great talents, and very nearly connected with me, have induced me to omit certain correspondence, which he considers I have no right to give to the public; though I confess, I consider that circumstances would fully have justified me in so doing: I have however conceded the point to respectful and affectionate representations from one whom I love and respect, which the remonstrances of a different kind, even from one nearly allied to your Majesty, did not only not induce me to concede, but steeled me the more in my purpose, till I was appealed to by one whom I could no longer refuse. I will bow to affection and kindness, but I have too much of my father's independence to bow even to the throne, if it were possible that a young and amiable Queen could be unreasonable, whose every wish and feelings the gallantry and devotion of her subjects are disposed to respect. May your Majesty realise through a long reign the fair hopes of a generous nation, which pays you in advance the dearest tribute of their affections, is the sincere

Prayer and dutiful wish

Of your Majesty's subject and servant,

HENRY BATHURST.

September, 1837.



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P R E F A C E

T O T H E P U B L I C.



THE following two letters are the authority for this memoir generally. There is unavoidably in the work some egotism, of which the editor is sensible, and which he wishes could have been avoided: all he can declare is, that he has remembered the direction in Othello, "Nothing extenuate, nor set down aught in malice." If the Tories with their long proscription of the Bishop of Norwich cut a far better figure, as honourable and kind men, than any Whigs in a public situation except Lord Albemarle and Lord Mulgrave, whose fault is it? Shall the recorder of truth suppress it? The editor knows that the

only excuse which whigs offer for their proscription of him as the son of the Bishop of Norwich, and as one who on professional accounts they allow to be not undeserving, is, that he has been a political clergyman ; whereas it will be here shown, that for every opinion which he has ever declared of importance, and every active interference of any consequence, he has received the approbation of his father, whom they so profess to extol.

Letter the first respecting this memoir.

My dear Henry,

Your affectionate disposition leads you to believe, but I fear somewhat too hastily, that the little history of an humble individual

Who has ever loved the life removed,
And held in idle price to haunt assemblies,

can be rendered, even by the partial pen of filial attachment, sufficiently interesting to attract

general notice. Biography is certainly one of the most amusing, and may be made one of the most useful, species of literary composition, when the subject of it is a person very eminent either in point of talents or of situation, because the sentiments and conduct of such a person cannot but have considerable weight with others; but with respect to myself, this is by no means the case: I never aspired to any higher praise, than that of discharging to the best of my abilities the various and not unimportant duties of my profession, and of earnestly endeavouring to make my domestic circle as happy as I could. As a public character, I should never have been heard of, had not the repeated discussion of the Catholic Question called upon me to declare my long-meditated and settled opinion, and at the same time awakened in my mind those enlarged ideas of civil and religious liberty, and of genuine Christian charity, which were impressed upon my understanding, when young, by an attentive perusal of the works of Locke and Hoadley, of Jeremy Taylor's 'Liberty of Prophesying,' of Stillingfleet's 'Irenicon,' and of Hooker's controversy with Travers; not to mention those still earlier

impressions which the study of our favourite authors never fails to produce,—a study which, without prejudice, (let our Cambridge friends say what they will,) is far better calculated not only to excite elevated feelings, but also to supply us with maxims of prudence and principles of moral truth ; and thus to influence our character, in a beneficial manner, through every period of our existence, than geometry or physics can pretend to ; because, as has been well remarked, “We are perpetually moralists, and only by chance geometricians.” This cordial tribute of applause, my old and much-loved place of abode for nearly forty years is fairly, I think, entitled to. Having written more than I intended, your queries must remain without an answer till we meet in Norwich ; I will then give you as accurate information as I can, and may perhaps be able to furnish you with a few anecdotes, little, if at all, known. Adieu ! Remember me very kindly, and

Believe me

Your affectionate father and sincere friend,

H. NORWICH.

Matlock, August the 18th, 1819.

My dear Henry,

Many thanks for your very kind and very sensible letter. Whatever may be my opinion respecting the expediency of the proposal you mention for the better security of the little money I have in the funds, I am clearly decided in thinking that you are, upon every account, the most proper person to undertake the friendly office of handing down to posterity memoirs of a life in which nothing but filial piety can find aught that is worth recording,—a life passed in the quiet discharge of the humble duties of that situation in which Providence placed me; a life, about which posterity will, I suspect, give itself very little trouble. But if you judge otherwise, be it so. I will not say to you, as Cicero does to a friend, “orna me;” but “speak of me as I am;”—speak of me as of one who endeavoured to make up by industry his want of brilliant parts, and whose love of civil and religious liberty prompted him to sacrifice upon the altar of independence not only his own interest, but that

which was far more dear to him—the interest of his children. Tryphena shall give up to you what papers she has; and when I see you and dear Fanny here, which I hope to do, when Caroline comes, you shall have whatever documents I can collect. We expect both Henrietta and Tryphena in Norwich very soon. Adieu! Kind love to Fanny.

Yours, &c.

Most affectionately,

HENRY NORWICH.

Norwich, June 14th, 1822.

MEMOIRS, &c.

CHAPTER I.

Introduction to Memoir, &c.—Genealogy—and some curious family letters of ancient date.

“THE BATHURST family took their surname, or
“ rather a part of it, from a place called Batters,
“ in the duchy of Luneburg, where their an-
“ cestors were seated. One or more of them
“ coming into England, in the time of the Saxons,
“ gained a settlement near Battle Abbey, in
“ Sussex, which they named Batters-hurst, i. e.
“ Batters-grove. Batters-hurst came at length
“ to be corrupted, or shortened, into Bathurst;
“ and the wood upon the spot is now called
“ Bathurst Wood. In the beginning of the reign
“ of Edward IV. Lawrence Bathurst, Esq., was
“ deprived of this ancient inheritance, in con-
“ sequence of his adherence to the then dethroned

“ sovereign, Henry VI., when it was given to
“ Battle Abbey. Launcelot Bathurst, grandson
“ of Lawrence, in the beginning of Queen Eliza-
“ beth’s reign was possessed of the manor of
“ Franks, and died in 1594. He had issue four
“ sons and three daughters. George, the youngest
“ son, from whom Earl Bathurst is descended,
“ married Elizabeth Villiers, daughter and co-
“ heiress of Edward Villiers, of Howthorpe in
“ the county of Northampton, who brought him
“ the manor of Howthorpe, where he settled.
“ He had issue twelve sons and four daughters :
“ but of the former, several lost their lives in the
“ service of Charles I. during the civil war.”
(Mrs. Hutchinson, in her ‘ Memoir of Colonel
Huchinson,’ says that eight brothers, who fell on
the King’s side, are buried in one churchyard.)
“ William Bathurst married Dorothy, daughter of
“ Dr. John Bathurst, of Leeds and Skutterskelf,
“ in the county of York : but dying without issue
“ male, his estates, as well as those of the
“ Attorney-General of Munster, devolved on Sir
“ Benjamin Bathurst, Knight, youngest and only
“ surviving son of the above-mentioned George
“ Bathurst, who was elected in the reign of
“ Charles II. Governor of the Royal African
“ Company, under his Royal Highness James,
“ Duke of York ; also Governor of the East India

“ Company in the year 1688-9 : he was afterwards Treasurer of the Household to the Princess Anne of Denmark ; who, upon her accession to the throne, appointed him Cofferer of her Household. He died in 1704, and was buried in Paulers-Perry, in Northamptonshire ; leaving issue by Frances, his wife, daughter of Sir Allen Apsley, in Sussex, Knight, three sons and a daughter ; amongst whom he divided his property, nearly in an equal manner. Allen, the eldest son, the celebrated Lord Bathurst, the friend of Swift, Pope, Addison, and all the great men of the reign of Queen Anne, after having gone through a proper course of grammatical education, was entered in Trinity College, Oxford, of which his uncle, the celebrated Dean Bathurst, was principal. From the directions, example, and encouragement of so eminent and polite a scholar, Mr. Bathurst could not fail of highly increasing, if he did not then first acquire that elegance of taste which accompanied him through all his future life : his studies were not confined merely to subjects of classical literature. In 1705, when he was of age, he was chosen representative for the borough of Cirencester. Though he entered so young into the House of Commons, it is said he particularly distinguished

“ himself in the struggles and debates relative to
“ the union between the two kingdoms, and
“ that he firmly supported a measure which was
“ so well calculated to strengthen government.
“ His zeal for his political principles did not
“ render him insensible to the merit of those who
“ were of the opposite opinions. He maintained,
“ in particular, a high and invariable personal
“ regard for Lord Somers; and when that great
“ man was divested of his offices, he behaved
“ with peculiar tenderness and delicacy towards
“ him.” It is a proof of Mr. Bathurst having
acted from principle, and not from interested
views, that amidst the numerous changes that
were made after the dissolution of the whig mi-
nistry, he accepted of no place from government.
His merit, however, did not go unrewarded,
though not in a lucrative way; for His Majesty
was pleased, by letters patent dated the 31st of
December, 1711, to advance him to the dignity of
a peer of Great Britain, by the style and title of
Lord Bathurst, Baron Bathurst, of Battlesden,
in the county of Bedford. This was at that me-
morable period in which the administration, in
order to obtain a majority in the upper house,
brought twelve new Lords into that house in one
day; to whom Duke Wharton said, “ Gentlemen,
I suppose you speak by your foreman.” His

Lordship continued to speak his sentiments with an undaunted freedom in the upper house, when he stepped forth as a formidable opponent to the Court measures in the reign of George II. ; and during Sir Robert Walpole's administration observed, " that the king of a faction was but the sovereign of half his subjects." Lord Bathurst's integrity gained him the esteem even of his opponents ; and his humanity and benevolence, the affection of all that knew him more intimately : he added to his public virtues all the good breeding, politeness, and elegance of social intercourse. Sterne thus speaks of him :—
" The first of our acquaintance was as singular as polite : he came up to me one day, as I was at the Princess of Wales' Court, and said, ' I want to know you, Mr. Sterne ; but it is fit you should know also who it is that wishes this pleasure : you have heard,' continued he, ' of an old Lord Bathurst, of whom your Popes and Swifts have sung and spoken so much. I have lived my life with geniuses of that cast, but have survived them ; and despairing ever to find their equals, it is some years since I have closed my accounts, and shut up my books, with thoughts of never opening them again ; but you have kindled a desire in me of opening them once more before I die, which I now do ; so, come home and

‘dine with me.’ This nobleman, I say, is a prodigy ; for at eighty-five he has all the wit and promptness of a man of thirty ; a disposition to be pleased, and a power to please others beyond whatever I knew ; added to which, he is a man of learning, courtesy, and feeling.” His Lordship married Catharine, daughter and heiress of Sir Peter Apsley, son and heir of Sir Allen already mentioned ; and by her had issue eleven sons and five daughters : he was created Earl in 1772 : he died in 1775, at his seat at Cirencester, in the ninety-first year of his age. Peter, second son of Sir Benjamin Bathurst, inherited from his father the estate of Clarendon Park, in Wiltshire : he married Lady Selina Shirley, daughter of the Lord Ferrars, and had issue by her five sons and ten daughters. The eldest daughter married Lord Ranelagh ; the second daughter married Lord Tracy ; the third married Lord Feversham ; the fourth, Sir — Malcolm ; the fifth, Sir Thomas Frederick ; the sixth, Mr. Byam ; the seventh, Mr. Thistlethwayte ; the eighth, Mr. Langton ; the ninth, Mr. Allen : the tenth died unmarried. Benjamin, third son of Sir Benjamin Bathurst, inherited the estates of Battlesden and Mixbury ; the former of which he exchanged for Lydney Park, in Gloucestershire : and having married, first, Miss Poole, an heiress, had issue by her

two-and-twenty children: by his second wife, Miss Brodrick, daughter of Dr. Brodrick, a clergyman and brother to Lord Middleton, Mr. Bathurst had a second family of fourteen children, of whom Dr. Henry Bathurst, the subject of the ensuing memoirs, was third son.

The following letters from Allen, Lord Bathurst; Mr. Benjamin Bathurst, father of the Bishop; Admiral Brodrick, whose sister was mother to the Bishop; and from the first Lord Viscount Bolingbroke; cannot but be interesting.

Letter the first. From Allen, Lord Bathurst, to Benjamin Bathurst, Esq., about an expected election at Cirencester.

I'm very sorry that I could not have the happiness of my dear brother's company in town to see this great solemnity, which drew so many others from much greater distances. But I perceive you are turning philosopher; and I am afraid you will despise the world so much, as that you won't think it worth your care, and leave Ciciter at last without a representative. But, pray consider your great maxim, "*Nemo sibi nascitur*," and resolve to sacrifice your own ease to the public. I shall set out in a week's time, or thereabouts, for Gloucestershire, and my family will follow me in a week after; but as it is the most necessary thing, in order to please, to enter

into the taste of those you would please, I send my horses and hounds before me, and have taken care that my cellar should be well stored.

But to be serious; I believe, in order to prevent an opposition, (which is all that makes an election troublesome,) it will be necessary for you to appear at Ciciter again, in a little time: however, I will not hasten you before it is absolutely necessary; and therefore, if you will be in readiness, I will send you word from thence how matters go, and let you know when you are wanted.

All here are very well, and present their remembrances to you and your lady. Pray let me hear from you by next post; and be assured that I am, with the greatest affection and esteem,

Dear Brother, your most obedient servant,

BATHURST.

Oct. 25th, 1714.

Letter the second. From the same, respecting the loss of Master James Bathurst, who perished at sea when the Prince George, commanded by Admiral Brodrick, was burnt off Lisbon.

Dear Brother,

A man who has many children must be under a constant expectation of hearing some bad news of some of them:—when you sent a son to

the East Indies, you must have prepared yourself to receive an account of his failure, some way or other ; when you sent your little boy to sea, you must have reflected upon the various accidents which might happen to him. It is very disagreeable to me to be the first to convey melancholy accounts : but as you will see by the newspapers of this day, that Admiral Brodrick's ship is lost, and only 150 men saved, you must be under great anxiety to know the fate of your little man. I heard of the account yesterday at Court, that the ship took fire, that the Admiral got into his boat, and that it was upset ; that he had just time to pull off his clothes, and saved himself by swimming : the letter was written from Oporto, from the Admiral himself to Lord Anson. I could get no particulars, and therefore remained between hopes and fears. I had heard that the Admiral had a son of his own on board, and thought it most probable the two boys must share the same fate : I therefore sent after Mrs. Brodrick, but was informed she was out of town ; I then sent to Mr. Cleveland, of the Admiralty, and received a note from him at night, that by his private letters he had reason to believe my nephew was among the unfortunate gentlemen who were drowned. After this, I can see no ground for hopes : I apprehend that he was in the boat with

the Admiral ; and it is said, that only the Admiral and his Captain saved themselves.

It is an unusual and sad accident ; don't let it dwell too much upon your mind. I send you the accounts just as I could get them ; and as I see so small a degree of any probability of his having escaped, I thought it best to send the whole to you which I could collect. God preserve you and all your numerous progeny which remain !

Adieu, B.

The following letter is from Admiral Brodrick relating to the same event as the above letter—viz. the death of the Bishop's elder brother, James, at sea : it is addressed to the Bishop's father.

Glasgow, off Lisbon, April 22nd, 1758.

Dear Sir,

As the newspapers will give you a particular account of the loss of the Prince George, I am persuaded you have too much good nature to expect a relation of it from me ; and I am under the greatest concern to acquaint you that my poor dear little friend, your son, is amongst the number of the unfortunate ; and what makes him more so is, he was in a boat and along-side the Alderney sloop,—but by what accident I cannot tell, she

overset. I thank God I am well, and sincerely wish it had been in my power to have given you a better account. I beg my love to Mrs. Bathurst and family.

I am, dear Sir,

Your most affectionate humble servant,

THOMAS BRODRICK.

The following two letters appear to have been written soon after the accession of George III. to the throne, and to have been addressed by the Bishop's father, one, to the then Duke of Beaufort, and, the other, to the Duchess, upon the subject of a pension offered to the Bishop's mother; when it appears, that by Lord Bute's advice the new King proposed to conciliate the old Jacobite party: there is neither date, nor subscription of name.

No. I.

My dear Lord,

Notwithstanding the resolution I had taken when I last saw you, family considerations prevail upon me to accept of the offer made me, in matter and form the same you mentioned to my wife. I may be blamed by some for this transaction, but I can better bear that, than the reflection of having missed an opportunity at my time of life of contributing somewhat to the com-

fort and support of a numerous family, that must be distressed at my death. Convinced as I am, that this has proceeded merely from a desire in you to serve me and mine, you have the sincere thanks of every branch of my family, and the assurance of my being with great affection and regard, my dear Lord,

Your most obedient servant.

No. II.

To the Duchess of Beaufort from B. Bathurst, Esq.

I should sooner have acquainted your Grace of my election at Monmouth, had I not been in a perpetual state of hurry, from home to Newnham, from thence to Glo'ster, to Monmouth, Bath, and Wells. The corporation did me particular honours—Mr. Hanbury and Mr. Morris dined with me and several gentlemen of my own acquaintance. I entertained the ladies with a ball, and all seem exceedingly well pleased. I should have adhered to my engagement to your Grace, had any offer been made me, and would have declined standing for Monmouth; but give me leave, Madam, to express my surprise at your seeming aversion to the acceptance of any favour from a prince of most undoubted virtues: to have been distinguished by such a prince, I should

have thought would have been an honour to any one, and who begins his reign with an intention to be king of all his people, and to put an end to the odious distinction of parties. I should have owed to himself only, without any servile engagement to any minister. I cannot but wonder from what motive or principle a different way of thinking should arise : is it or has it been a crime to accept of favours from good princes, and from whom we have all possible reason to expect the greatest good to arise to these lately much distracted kingdoms ? The refusal, I should think, would have been the highest presumption, and a sort of avowal of a want of duty and regard to the Crown. I have been educated in other principles, and have always thought it a duty in a subject to obey, and to show every mark of duty and respect to a good prince disposed to be the father of his people. If I am wrong, your Grace will set me right ;—to your opinion I shall pay the utmost regard.

The following letter is from the famous Lord Viscount Bolingbroke to B. Bathurst, Esq.

Dawley Farm, Nov. 5th, 1727.

Dear Sir,

A note which I received yesterday at London from Mr. Lewis, gave me notice of the

design which you are pleased to communicate to me in your letter of the 30th of October, which I found at my return to this place. As to the house in Golden-square, I am ready to take it into my own hands whenever you please, as I should have been willing to have left it in yours as long as it might have been agreeable to you. As to the arrears of rent, give yourself no trouble about them; they will be paid soon enough for me if they are paid at your conveniency. The proposal you make about the furniture may accommodate both of us; and my wife shall go to the house the first time she goes to London, if you approve of it; after which I will discourse with Mr. Lewis, and give you the trouble of a letter. The expenses of elections are indeed become too great to be defrayed by any private purses,—the fact is certain, and the consequence obvious: it were much to be wished that they who are corrupt were to suffer alone by corruption; but that is impossible in the nature of things,—corruption is a plague which destroys even those it cannot infect. I have been much concerned, in more regards than one, for the Glo'ster election. Receive my hearty thanks for the kindness you express towards me, and for the sense you have of my present situation; which would perhaps be more grievous to most people, than it is to me,

who have had too long experience of the contrariety of fortune, and too many occasions of exerting myself against her. One thing comforts and supports me vastly—I had done nothing to deserve the offers and repeated promises of a restitution, when they were made me eleven years ago, and I have done nothing to forfeit my title to them since. In all situations of life you shall find me,

Dear Sir, most faithfully,

Your most obedient and most humble servant,

BOLINGBROKE.

CHAPTER II.

Early part of the Bishop's life—Early partiality of the late Lord De Dunstanville for the Bishop—First acquaintance with his pupil the late Earl Bathurst, with two letters, one dated in 1781, the other 1790, illustrative of the sincere attachment existing between them ; including also a notice of the Bishop's first *entrée* into his uncle Allen, Lord Bathurst's family ; together with two anecdotes of the first Lord Viscount Bolingbroke, and one of Lord Clive, and one of the Jacobite principles of the Bathurst family, with other matter interwoven.

IN the month of November, 1744, the wife of Benjamin Bathurst, Esq., mother of the subject of this memoir, was taken prematurely in labour at the end of seven months, and gave birth to her son Henry ; and it is said that he was so extremely small an infant, that he could not be dressed, like other children, for some time after his birth, but they were obliged to wrap him in cotton. Mr. Benjamin Bathurst had represented the city of Gloucester at between twenty and thirty years of age ; after which, to avoid the expense of con-

tested elections, by which he had been greatly impoverished, the Duke of Beaufort requested to bring him in for Monmouth, which borough he also represented for many years. He was father of the House of Commons at the same time that his brother Earl Bathurst was father of the House of Lords. He was a steady opposer of Sir Robert Walpole and the Whigs, a stanch supporter of the Stuart family, and an attached friend of the Pretender, which rendered his son Henry's early and steady inclination for the opposite principles the more remarkable: even when he was quite a boy, and used to hear his father giving the famous old Tory toasts, he would say to him, "How can you justify taking the oath to the present government, when I know you wish for the restoration of the Stuarts?" and his father would answer jocosely, "Hold your tongue, you are a bastard!" The famous Tory toasts at that time were, "May the white horse never range in British pastures!" The white horse was an allusion to the House of Hanover.

Another toast, "God bless the King, and down with the Pretender: but who the Pretender is, and who the King,—God bless us all,—that's quite another thing."

"God bless the King, our Faith's defender!

"Blessing 's no harm,—God bless the Pretender!"

“ But who 's the Pretender, and who 's the King ?

“ God bless my soul !—that 's quite another thing.”

This early inclination was imbibed in a great measure from the society of Mr. Woodhull, of Thenford in Northamptonshire, with whom this young Whig passed much of his time during the earliest period of his youth. The writings of this gentleman also, particularly his poem upon the ‘ Equality of Mankind,’ together with Rousseau ‘ Sur Légalité des Hommes,’ and, above all, the sublime compositions of Milton, all of which in his youthful days he studied with enthusiasm, chiefly served to form the basis of those principles of toleration, and of civil and religious liberty, which so uniformly marked his character through life. He was first sent to a preparatory school at Oxford, and at the age of eleven years he went to Winchester on the foundation ; but he was not at first studious, as at a very early period of boyhood he was very fond, both then and afterwards, of active sports, and suffered a bite in his thumb from a badger, when engaged in a badger-hunt at Winchester, which left marks always to be discovered ; and to the period of seventy years of age and upwards he retained a great love for the amusement of shooting, and on his eightieth birthday killed a cock-pheasant at Holkham, although he never could be said to be a very good shot.

He would frequently, when Canon of Christchurch at Oxford, go out a shooting with Dr. Holmes, who was subsequently Dean of Winchester; and, when afterwards Prebendary of Durham, he frequently went to shoot upon the moors. His friend Dr. Holmes and himself trespassed one day on an old lady's grounds near Oxford, and they were overtaken by the gamekeeper, who said, that he (Dr. B.) had the character of a gentleman, but as for the other (Dr. H.) he was the biggest poacher in the country. In the year 1761, at the age of sixteen, he succeeded as founder's-kin from Winchester to New College, Oxford, where he soon became devoted to literature, and indefatigable in the pursuit of it. He obtained the distinction of what is called being Doctor's Child, at Winchester,—an honour which gives the first place to him who obtains it among those who are raised to the next senior class the ensuing half year. The capacity of his memory may be judged of, when it is stated, that on this occasion he said by heart all the Odes and Epodes of Horace, twelve books of Homer, and all the *Æneid*. At sixteen years of age he was elected fellow of New College, and continued fellow fourteen years, two years of which he was classical tutor. When he was at Winchester College, he

was remonstrated with by the Warden for speaking in a Latin declamation of Lord Strafford's execution in the following manner, by way of quotation from Homer, *Ὡς ἀπόλοιτο καὶ ἄλλος, ὅτις τοιαῦτά γε ῥίζοι!* And so says his biographer also, for Lord Strafford was an unprincipled man, who made patriotism a stepping-stone to ambition, and then would have kicked the people down on whose shoulders he rose. At the age of twenty-two the subject of this memoir lost his father, who left his widow in circumstances, which, had it not been for the pension from government secured to her, and alluded to in the correspondence with the Duke and Duchess of Beaufort, would have been full of embarrassment, if not really distressed. In order to relieve her from his college allowance, after having taken priest's orders, he went into Devonshire as tutor to Sir Charles Bamfylde. Mr. Basset, who lived near Brackley, was one of his earliest friends; and it is a curious anecdote, which proves the great regard this gentleman had for him, that when he (Mr. Basset) died, his son, the late Lord de Dunstanville, who was then quite a boy, wrote to the subject of this memoir to request him to become his tutor, in the following terms:—

“ Dear Sir,

“ Knowing the regard my papa had for you, I wish you would be my tutor.

“ Yours,

“ FRANK BASSET.”

And it is a singular circumstance, and much to the credit of Dr. Bathurst, that in the year 1823, when Lady de Dunstanville, wife of this Mr. Basset, afterwards Lord de Dunstanville, was dying, she said to her husband, by whom this communication was made, “ Remember me most kindly to my Bishop,” meaning the Bishop of Norwich, “ and beg his acceptance of a hundred pounds from me, to purchase some memorial of one who had always the sincerest regard and affection for his character.”

When applied to by Mr. Basset, he was at that time engaged to Sir Charles Bamfylde, where he remained nearly two years, in a situation which he found by no means agreeable, owing to several domestic afflictions and unpleasant circumstances in the family: he afterwards returned to Oxford with his pupil, where he continued as classical tutor for two years. His uncle, the first Lord Bathurst, who was then far advanced in years, having heard of his great attachment and taste for

literature, was extremely anxious that his nephew Henry should be constantly with him ; he accordingly bid adieu to the university, and took up his abode with his uncle ; and he soon became the favourite friend and companion of that celebrated nobleman, to whom he usually read from four to six hours in the day : and it is a remarkable circumstance, that at the age of eighty-nine Lord Bathurst retained his faculties to such a degree, and his attention was such, that he could always distinguish from the tone of his nephew's voice, and manner of reading Tacitus, the passages which he did not understand. During his residence with Lord Bathurst, Dr. Bathurst enjoyed the advantage of meeting the most celebrated men of their time at His Lordship's abode ; among these were Lord Clive, Lord Bolingbroke, Mr. Hume, and Mr. Pope, &c. &c. One day, Dr. Parry, a Presbyterian clergyman at Cirencester, being in company with Mr. Hume the historian, who was at that time on a visit to Lord B., Dr. Parry began to question him about the religious principles of his friend D'Alembert, who was supposed to be an atheist, or, at least, a deist,—in short, to be possessed of no religion at all. Hume, to turn the conversation, began to talk of the weather and other indifferent subjects ; however Dr. Parry would not give up his point : at length

Hume said dryly, "I don't know, Dr. Parry, much about my friend D'Alembert's religion; I only know he ought to have had a great deal, for his mother was a nun, and his father a friar, own brother to her." After the death of his uncle Lord Bathurst, Dr. B. went for a short time to Eton as tutor to the late Lord Bathurst, eldest son of Lord Chancellor Bathurst, who was then Lord Apsley: his stay there was nearly a year, when he was succeeded by the late Dean of Gloucester, Dr. Pluntre. In the year 1771, Miss Catharine Bathurst, who was Dr. Bathurst's half-sister, was married by him to Dr. Charles Coote, (brother of the celebrated Sir Eyre Coote, who distinguished himself so much in India,) Dean of Kilfenora in Ireland; and it was then he first met with Miss Coote, the Dean's only daughter by his first wife. The living of Salperton was given to Dr. B., the first time, by his uncle Allen, Lord Bathurst, in 1772: four or five years after that period he vacated it, by accepting a New College benefice, the rectory of Witchingham in Norfolk: this rectory, though of more value than Salperton, he resigned about the year 1790, and accepted the second time, when he was presented to it by Lord Chancellor Bathurst, at the particular request of the late Earl his son, who then felt exceedingly anxious to have Dr.

Bathurst in his neighbourhood ; little at that time intending to take an active part in public life ; and still less, foreseeing that his political opinions would so much differ from his friend and tutor as to prove the means of estranging from him, in some degree, one for whom he entertained so warm a friendship, and who certainly very sincerely returned it : as a proof how sincerely this attachment existed, the following letters, one written in 1781, promising to be godfather to the child likely to be born, which was the present Archdeacon Bathurst, and the other written in the year 1790, may be adduced.

No. I.

Letter from the late Earl Bathurst when Lord Apsley.

Hanover, Friday, March 13th, 1781.

My dear Friend,

Your maps will tell you that Brunswick is not at a great distance from Hanover, and you will find at the end of your almanack that the present Duke of Brunswick married the King of England's sister : but neither your maps nor your almanack will tell you that Henry, Lord Apsley went thither the 1st of February, and remained there until the 16th ; I must therefore tell it you myself.

The Duchess is most wonderfully like the King : she is most civil and obliging : she talks much of my grandfather ; said that he was a great friend of her father's and of hers, but that he was a *rank Jacobite*. You will easily perceive that she is not very cautious in what she says. I should never have conceived her to have known what a Court was, and yet she is always in one.

The Duke is you know a great general ; he is likewise one of the most polite men I ever remember to have seen. The Dowager Duchess is, if I may judge from all the pictures of the King of Prussia, most astonishingly like her brother : she has an infinite degree of wit, and imitates her brother in talking nothing but French, and in liking the nation.

Duke Ferdinand, who always resides there, is, you will naturally suppose, a gay old veteran, with all the heartiness and the dislike to ceremonies, which a life spent in the *tented field* naturally inspires. If you figure him to yourself in this manner, I have the honour to tell you that you have a perfect bad idea of him. He is the most stiff, formal man, I ever remember to have beheld : his wig is *stuck into his head*, and plastered with powder and pomatum in the most exact manner : he loves ceremonies *à la folie*,

(pray observe that I have forgot my English,) and an omission of an etiquette towards him will blast you in his idea for ever : he has however an eye full of fire. When I was there, the report prevailed that Lord G. Germain had already resigned. I received a letter to the contrary. I told it him, and he could not conceal his disappointment. To end the character of the royal House of Brunswick, the Duke's son is a fat fool of fifteen.

So much for what I have seen ; now for a few words concerning what you have written. You say that I was wrong in my argument in *inferring* “ my safety from that of the miners, who is inured by habit to that dangerous situation.” You triumph in your logical terms, and think by them to *bamboozle* a poor country gentleman ; but I will not be beat down by *the doctor*. The honest miner is “ inured by habit ” to remain fourteen hours together in the mine, without any dangerous consequences ; but he must have acquired this habit by beginning to remain there for one ; and this beginning was not dangerous. How, therefore, could my first visit for an equal time be attended with bad consequences, when his was not ? Had his lungs a presentiment that they were in time to be inured by habit, and received previously the

effect before the *cause* existed? Go and read a page of common sense, and try for a moment to forget Oxford and Aristotle.

I shall with pleasure be responsible for the sins of the looked-for infant, provided that you will not call him *Alacadabra*. I shall, I believe, in six weeks' time, set off from this place: direct however your next letter here.

Your friend, Goody Glass, may light her fire for what I care with her Greek translation, although your logicians may tell me perhaps that nothing can give to others what it does not possess itself. I should however never think of praising my friend's composition, as you have done, by saying that he was unacquainted with the metre in which he wrote.

You tell me that you have not any news to tell me, because you are convinced that I must have already heard whatever there is of news in England. We have none here for any one to tell. What have you to say concerning the loss of Minorca? Have you heard that the English General, (I think,) who was second in command there, refused to dine with the Spanish commander on being invited after the capture, declaring that he would not dine with a traitor to his country; meaning the first in command, who he declares has sold it. Perhaps this is only the

scandal of Hanover. You will see how ignorant I am of public affairs, by my having forgot the name of the commanders at Minorca. To say the truth, all the news which relates to England is always melancholy; and it is my philosophy never to think of things which may disturb me, but which I cannot remedy. I will however tell you some good news, and that is, that my letter is at an end.

Yours ever affectionately,

APSLEY.

No. II.

Letter from the late Earl Bathurst when Lord Apsley.

Cirencester, September 13th, 1790.

My dear Friend,

I saw Bragge two days ago at Bristol, and he told me that he heard of your being very much enchanted with the grandeur of Langwith, and of your intention to take a curacy in that part of the country; so that I see your having furnished your house at Christ-church has not made you lay aside your intention of living chiefly out of it. Dr. Benson, we have just heard, died yesterday morning: his death has been long expected; and Lord Bathurst did some time ago, with his usual goodness, inform me, that he considered the disposal of the living of Salperton,

on account of its neighbourhood to Cirencester, to be of so much concern to me, that he would leave it wholly to me. If you were unmarried, I should write to you in a different manner; but as one who has a family, and is bound to provide for it, I must submit it to you as a question of prudence, whether it will hurt your income to resign your two livings in Norfolk, and accept this. The exact value of this, as I cannot ascertain with as much precision as I could wish, I will write down in the postscript. You must consider with yourself, whether your two livings where you constantly keep a curate, with a curacy in the part of the country you now are, will be more or less nett in your pocket than the living of Salperton, which is so much nearer Oxford, where you must sometimes go. It will be unnecessary to state how very happy your company, and that of Mrs. Bathurst, would make both Lord and Lady Bathurst and my sisters. As I understand Miss Bragge's match is delayed on account of Hay's want of preferment, it was mentioned to him, who has been advised to decline it. Mr. —,

* * * * *

I have mentioned this, that the idea of accepting what may not advantage you, and would injure another, may not influence you in your refusal. I will not trouble you with protestations how very

much I have to wish that you would live in the neighbourhood of a place where I shall in all probability spend the greater part of my life. I am vain enough to have my fears lest you should not consider enough your own private concerns, for the purpose of doing what I must look upon as so essential a favour granted to me. Give my compliments to Mrs. Bathurst, and believe me,

Yours sincerely,

APSLEY.

During that part of the above period when Dr. Bathurst was living with his uncle Allen, Lord Bathurst, he learnt the following remarkable anecdote of Lord Bolingbroke, who was, from all accounts, certainly a most fascinating man.

Such were the insinuating graces of Lord Bolingbroke's character, that the morning of his departure into exile, when Allen, Lord Bathurst was at his bedside, a notorious courtesan (Sally —), who was attached to him, knocked at the door: the servant said, that Lord Bolingbroke could not be seen: the young woman said, she would see him; and, rushing up stairs, she burst into the room where Lord Bolingbroke was, threw a purse of gold down on the floor, and cried, "There are all my wretched earnings, — take them; and God bless you!" and bursting into tears, left the room.

A less serious anecdote also was often mentioned by the late Bishop, of the same Lord Bolingbroke. It was as follows :—

It was the custom for a dancing-master to come frequently to Lord Bathurst's house at Cirencester, for the purpose of teaching the ladies to dance. The dancing-master one day stayed to dine: after dinner Lord Bolingbroke, who was there, left the room for a few minutes. The dancing-master raised up his hands, and cried out, "O, what a delightful gentleman! he only wants six lessons from me to make him complete."

Of Lord Clive, the great General of India, the Bishop has often related that this great man declared at Lord Bathurst's house, that though some accused him in England of having enriched himself during his command in India by unjust means, yet so far was it from truth, that after the battle of Plassey, he had two millions of money which he might safely have appropriated, and that he touched not a farthing.

CHAPTER III.

Other private events and anecdotes, from 1774 to 1795, including a beautiful letter from Dr. Bathurst on the death of his brother, T. Bathurst, Esq.; by whose means he lost the family estate of Lydney Park, settled, as his father thought upon him, in failure of issue of Mr. Thomas Bathurst, by the terms of the marriage-settlement of Mr. T. Bathurst with Miss Fazakerly, whose brother, a great lawyer, drew up the settlement, in which there proved to be a flaw, by means of which Mr. Thomas Bathurst was enabled to sue a fine, &c.; and dying intestate, the estate went in the line of the first marriage of the father of Dr. Bathurst.

IN the year 1774 Dr. Bathurst went to Ireland on a visit to the Dean and his sister Mrs. Coote; and an attachment was formed between him and Miss Coote, daughter of Dean Coote by his first wife, the Hon. Mrs. Cuffe, which, not without many difficulties on the part of the Dean, ended in a marriage some years afterwards. In the year 1775, the living of Bletchingly in Surrey, the residence of the Clayton family, was offered to Dr. Bathurst by Lord Bathurst as Chancellor; but the family went in a body to Lord North, to request him to pro-

pose to Dr. B. an exchange, as they were naturally anxious that one of their own connexions should possess the living : in consequence of which, Lord North begged the Chancellor to offer Dr. B. a stall at Windsor, Durham, Westminster, or the canonry of Christ-church ; which last he accepted, though he continued living at New College the first year, in order to defray the expense of furnishing his house. He took his Doctor's degree in the year 1776 ; and about this period he had the option of changing his canonry of Christ-church for an Irish bishopric, to which Dr. Cleaver, afterwards Archbishop of Dublin, was appointed. In this year he went to Ireland, and proposed to Miss Coote ; but was refused by the Dean, in spite of the strong attachment his daughter had formed for her suitor, who felt severe disappointment at this rejection. He was at this time supposed to be heir to the Lydney estate ; and he had tolerable church preferment, independent of his talents, attainments, and highly respectable character : but the Dean, who had all the sternness of a domestic tyrant in his composition, was willing to sacrifice his daughter's happiness, to his own ambition ; and having set his heart on promoting a union between her and an Irish nobleman of exalted rank and fortune, this selfish view prompted him to withhold his

consent to the marriage of his daughter with Dr. Bathurst. Four years afterwards, the Dean was induced to give a reluctant consent to this union, in consequence of Miss Coote having refused every other offer, on account of her attachment to Dr. B. After his marriage, he resided entirely at Christ-church for many years, when he strictly and constantly attended to all the duties of his situation as Canon. His particular friends in the university at that time were Doctors Hemmington, Onslow, Jubb, and Blaney ; and his house of an evening was always open to those young men of his acquaintance with whom he was most intimate, and who most gladly and frequently, especially Lord Apsley, Lord Wellesley, and Mr. (afterwards Lord) Grenville, availed themselves of the pleasure and advantage they derived from his society and conversation ; and many of the noblemen and gentlemen who have since taken the lead in public affairs were of the number. So far back as the contested election which followed upon the union of Lord North and Mr. Fox, Dr. Bathurst, who then had the living of Witchingham in Norfolk, came down into Norfolk, with the design of voting for Mr. Coke, though he did not go to the poll ; and a great attachment, though exclusively personal, to the Bishop, existed through life on the part of Mr. Coke toward the Bishop ; which

attachment was on the Bishop's side sincere ; on Mr. Coke's side, it certainly was not equal to the inveterate animosity, the writer hopes undeserved, which he seemed to bear for some years past to the Bishop's eldest son.

About the year 1794 Dr. Bathurst experienced a severe disappointment, which he bore with the temper and fortitude that always distinguished him : it was of a temporal nature, and shall be given distinctly and at some length.

His father, Mr. Benjamin Bathurst, had arranged with his eldest son, Mr. Thomas Bathurst, upon Mr. T. B.'s marriage many years previous to his death, that the estate of Lydney should devolve to the family by his second wife, in the event of the sons by the first wife dying without children ; and the names of those of the second family who were at that time in existence were placed in the entail. Dr. Bathurst was then an infant, and his name was inserted ; so that Mr. Benjamin Bathurst considered the estate as securely settled upon him, after his elder brother's and their children, as it was possible to be. And the settlement was drawn up by a lawyer of the name of Fazakerly, who was a friend of Mr. Thomas Bathurst's, and brother to his wife : but this lawyer left a loop-hole, scarcely discernible ; so that Mr. Thomas Bathurst had it in

his power, were he so inclined, to leave the estate away. This settlement was not examined by any person excepting a young man of the name of Pye, to whom Mr. Bathurst had shown it; but he was not sufficiently experienced in those matters to detect the flaw. When Mr. Thomas Bathurst lost money at play, he took the settlement to a lawyer, in order to obtain his opinion whether it were possible for him to raise money on the estate. This lawyer carefully examined it, and discovered the clause, which enabled Mr. Thomas Bathurst, by suing a fine of recovery, to raise what money he chose; and this could not have been done, had the property been, with the strictness intended by Dr. Bathurst's father, entailed: but notwithstanding this, Mr. Thomas Bathurst never had an idea of leaving the estate away from Dr. B.; being fully aware of the intentions of Mr. Benjamin Bathurst, his father, in his favour, and also of the justice of his claim in every point of view. He not only promised the estate over and over again to his half-brother Henry, of whom he was extremely fond, but left it to him in his will after the death of his brother Poole, who was the only survivor between Mr. Thomas Bathurst and his half-brother Henry, and he had no children. In this will he also bequeathed legacies to some of his servants; and

when he was seized with a brain fever, in the course of his illness, or rather with a violent fit of passion; one day having taken a dislike to some of the servants to whom he had left the legacies, he threw the will into the fire. Mr. Thomas Bathurst died in the year 1790. Mr. Yarnold was at his side when the will was burnt, and he heard him exclaim at that moment, "Ah, the poor Doctor! they won't give him a shilling now."

There seems no doubt that the sudden disorder of his understanding was brought on by consciousness of having sued a fine, and set aside the marriage-settlement made by his father; and that this led to that uneasiness of mind, which, from whatever cause it arise, when extreme, often leads to a melancholy termination, similar to that which in this case happened.

Upon the death of Mr. Poole Bathurst in 1794, Dr. Bathurst, who was the undoubted heir to Lydney, his brother having left no children, went immediately to be present at the opening of the will; but he found his nephew, Mr. Charles Bragge (now Bathurst), son of Mrs. Bragge, who was the eldest daughter of Mr. Benjamin Bathurst, already on the spot, and appeared greatly surprised to see Dr. Bathurst; who immediately informed him, that the lawyer (Mr. Davis) had said positively, that his brother's words in the

will were, that "the estate should go to the nearest relation of the name of Bathurst." Mr. Yarnold also declared those to be the words; but it was afterwards found that they were altered as follows, "whoever has the estate must take the name:" upon which Mr. Bragge begged Dr. B.'s pardon, saying he was mistaken, as the words in the will were, as Mr. Davis would inform him, that "the estate should go to the nearest relation who should *take the name of Bathurst.*" Dr. B. of course could say no more, and immediately took his leave; and thus he was deprived of his father's estate,—by what means will perhaps never be brought to light. His brother, Poole, left him a legacy of £10,000 as a sort of compensation for the loss of the estate; but he never received more than £3600, and that only in small sums at different periods, to the shame of those who enjoyed the estate which ought to have been his: the excuse was, that no more money was forthcoming. It may be imagined that some feelings of regret and disappointment would naturally have arisen in his mind at this trying period; but if such was the case, they were for ever buried within him; nor did he in the slightest degree ever appear to resent or even to notice, or make further inquiry into the conduct of those who managed this affair. Whether he

might with effect or not have stirred, may be better proved by lawyers, to whose particular judgment, in the instance of the late Judge Buller, it was submitted, and who put a pencil mark under the words "*to the use of*," as destroying Dr. Bathurst's right.

The following letter, written in 1791, was written upon Dr. Bathurst finding himself disappointed of the Lydney estate upon the death of his elder brother, Thomas Bathurst, Esq.; who in reality, though Dr. B. only says he died suddenly, hung himself in his green-house, having been much affected in his mind in consequence of having set aside his father's settlement of the estate, and, as before stated, raised money on it, availing himself of a legal flaw in the deed of settlement. And the statement of this fact the Editor had from Dr. Bathurst's old butler, William Shepard, who was with his master at the time when Mr. Thomas Bathurst (the eldest brother) died, and who communicated every particular, too melancholy to detail.

Sunday, November the 13th, 1791.

My dearest Grace,

I did not get to Burford till past ten o'clock; and though I rose early the next morning,

it was dark before I reached this place, in consequence of the badness of the roads.

You will easily imagine that the scene which presented itself to me upon my arrival was sufficiently melancholy. Nothing can equal the grief and concern of the domestics, who have indeed lost an indulgent master. Charles Bragge came only last night. My brother's death was sudden, and entirely unexpected. He slept six hours the preceding night, eat his breakfast, appeared tolerably composed, took a walk to see his orange-trees, and near the spot where they are placed to secure them during the winter, he fell down, and was found dead in less than ten minutes after he left the parlour. An attested copy of the will is to be read this morning, the contents of it Mr. Parry has informed me of; the original (you know) he burnt in a fit of passion: after he had burnt it, he was very much affected, and exclaimed, "Poor Harry! they will, I hope, let him have a share." It seems that he had in *this will* expressed a *wish* that the estate should go to me and my children,—how far this wish may operate upon Poole, time must show; *some effect* it will probably produce. Every thing is in Poole's power, excepting only the following legacies, and these perhaps cannot legally be insisted upon:

£2000 to Sally Chester ; £500 to another natural daughter by the same woman, after an interval of ten years ; a year's wages to each of his female servants ; and £400 among godchildren ; £12 a year, I think, to the mother of Sally Chester, and a small annuity to the two servants who sat up with him. Further particulars I will communicate when we meet.

So much for this matter. I hardly know whether I ought to call it a disappointment ; but if it were, I have lived long enough to know, from pleasing experience, that the affection of one amiable friend is of more real value than the wealth of India. With respect to worldly emoluments in general, I hope always, whenever and wherever they are under consideration, to feel as I have hitherto done—neither anxious nor indifferent about them : the latter would be criminal in a man blessed with such a wife and such children ; and the former unworthy of one who has long since learnt how poor and futile the objects of this transient life are, when compared with that glory and happiness which await the humble yet earnest endeavours of him who by faith and virtue shall labour to attain them. Adieu ! love to Henrietta and little Charles. It will not be in my power to see you before the latter end of this,

or the beginning of next week. My brother is not to be buried till Friday.

Affectionately yours,
H. B.

You will want money : take one of the bills which are tied up in my bureau, for the purpose of paying debts, wages, &c. &c.

During the fourteen years which Dr. Bathurst lived at Christ-church in Oxford, he was very much beloved by the young men ; for he was always in the councils of the Dean and Chapter known to intercede for their indiscretions, and to save them from any severe consequences, to which their scrapes, into which they got, might lead: and in the year 1793, when the great rebellion took place at Winchester College, and a large part of those who are called Dons in the university, from the (we suppose) pomp and circumstance in the days of unclouded legitimacy, which Spanish Dons affected, were disposed to exclude the thirty-six young men who were expelled from Winchester at that time for riotous behaviour, Dr. Bathurst pleaded their cause, and was the principal means of their being admitted, as they were, to several colleges, even on the

foundation, and thereby affording them an opportunity of showing themselves what they really were, in such a manner as to become distinguished characters in life; among them were the Rev. William Bishop, and the Rev. Richard Mant, now an Irish Bishop : and a more truly worthy, excellent, and conscientious man than the former, we will venture to assert, does not exist in the world : of the disposition and moral qualities of the latter, those who know him better than the writer of this memoir may also probably speak equally favourably. In the walks of literature he (Mr. Mant) has certainly much distinguished himself : in early life Mr. Mant was a warm advocate of liberty, though in his public conduct he has not shown himself the same ; and the first proof he gave of his liberality upon landing as an Irish Bishop in that hospitable country in which he has been promoted, was to fire away from the pulpit at the (then) poor defenceless Roman Catholics.

But to return to a more interesting subject. Dr. Bathurst during his continuance at Oxford was very much respected and very generally acquainted : his social turn, though attended by habits remarkably abstemious, besides the extent of his connexions, led him to a very general acquaintance. He was always rather fond of dis-

pute and argument, sometimes perhaps more than was pleasant to all tastes; and it does not seem that he liked to be contradicted by any whose abilities he did not consider as weighty,—a disposition probably not uncommon: but when his opponent waxed warm, he always collected the most perfect composure and good humour; and not long after he had left Oxford, he came from Durham on a visit to the south, and dined together with his son, the writer of this memoir, at Dr. Holmes', (the gentleman who succeeded to his canonry, and was made afterwards Dean of Winchester by Mr. Addington,) and when the conversation turned upon the propriety of admitting Roman Catholics to the full participation of civil and political privileges, and when after a long dispute Dr. Holmes, defeated in argument, made an uneasy motion with his body, as wishing to rise after having sat long enough, and slobbering off a bumper of port, a large proportion of which descended upon his shirt and waistcoat in his eagerness, proclaimed as his Q. E. D. "All good and wise men think as I do." Dr. Bathurst replied with great humour, "Come, let us go to tea."

Dr. B.'s great friends at Winchester School and New College were Mr. Ben. Jeffries, Archdeacon Daubeny, James Daubeny, and Rev. Phil^p Wil-

liams. Mr. James Daubeny always showed himself a kind and affectionate friend to his son Henry in particular, and to all his father's family when opportunity offered : the other three were all fellows of Winchester, but so little did they notice their friend's family, that they never even gave either of his sons who were at Winchester half-a-crown, treated them to a *fragment*, or ever noticed them at all. The Warden of New College, however, Dr. Oglander, and Rev. H. Oglander, who was a fellow of Winchester, displayed quite a different disposition by every particular kindness.

CHAPTER IV.

Interesting letters, &c. received, and an affecting event experienced in the death of a favourite child during Dr. Bathurst's residence in Durham. In this chapter are included additional proofs of his old friend and pupil, Lord Bathurst's attachment.

IN the year 1795 Dr. Barrington (then the Bishop of Durham) wrote to Dr. Bathurst the following letter :—

Cavendish Square, March 2nd, 1795.

Dear Sir,

The second best stall in my church is become vacant by the death of Mr. Henry Egerton. Personal regard and public esteem induce me to give you this substantial proof of both, in exchange for your canonry of Christ-church.

I am, dear Sir,

Your faithful servant,

S. DUNELM.

The Rev. Dr. Bathurst.

He accepted this offer, and with his wife and (then six) children migrated to Durham ; whither

he retired with some degree of reluctance, from its being at so great a distance from his friends and relatives. During his residence he contributed greatly to the maintenance of that hospitality which then eminently distinguished this northern city, and is still continued, it is to be hoped, to the present day. Immediately after this nomination to Durham, Dr. B. received the following letter from Lord Bathurst :—

London, March 7th, 1795.

Dear Dr. Bathurst,

I have had many reasons to be vexed at not having had it in my power to succeed in my solicitations in your favour, and your letter of yesterday has given me an additional one. The offer was certainly not to be rejected, and I hope you have gone upon sure grounds as to the difference there is between the two preferments, as the Bishop may state the value of what he offers too high. I do not understand what object he has in making you resign your canonry, as it is not in his gift. I hope to be able to see you before you set off to the north, as I intend to go into Gloucestershire early in the season. I am,

With real regard and affection,

Yours sincerely,

BATHURST.

A few days afterwards, the following letter arrived :—

London, March 14th, 1795.

Dear Dr. Bathurst,

There is at present an Irish bishopric vacant, which Lord Fitzwilliam will probably not have filled up before his departure. Lord Camden's tutor will in that case have the offer, but it is imagined would prefer preferment in England; in which case the offer will be made to you. I have mentioned this, that you may have time to think upon it. The value of the bishopric to be offered will certainly be a point to be ascertained, before you can determine; at the same time, I think you may look to advancement with some certainty, if Lord Camden continues in Ireland. If the idea of going to Ireland makes you at once determine to refuse, I wish you to let me know. I need not beg of you not to mention this to any body. Mr. Pitt is to write to the Bishop of Durham to delay the exchange of the prebendary upon a different pretence, so you need be under no difficulty on that account.

Yours very sincerely,

BATHURST.

A subsequent letter stated immediately the

bishopric, which was Killala, and added an intimation, that if Mr. Pitt's influence remained, and Dr. Bathurst lived, he should be advanced to the primacy, if a vacancy should occur : and so distinctly was the handsome offer understood, that Archbishop Newcome (then Primate of Ireland) wrote to Dr. B., and advised him to accept the offer of the bishopric of Killala, for which he would insure him 2500 guineas a year; and added, that he understood he was destined to succeed him in the primacy, if things remained as then with regard to the prominent actors on the political stage : and he begged to say, that there was no man living, whom he should so much like to have for a successor. Dr. Newcome, who was preceptor to Mr. Fox, it seems, saw clearly the same great principles of public life in Dr. Bathurst, which he had inculcated in Mr. Fox, and hailed under a Tory reign the accidental favour, which, from the personal attachment of Lord Bathurst, was likely to bring into public notice a man of kindred principles to those which shed a transient lustre on the see of Armagh, but which expired with that great and good man, who stood indeed like a man among the children of his time. The only subject of regret which occurs, is, that upon the subject of the great principles upon which society should be governed and regulated, such

radical difference should be found to exist between Lord Bathurst and his friend, relative, and tutor, (when both were together to perform their parts in public life,) so as to separate them in the track of life's eventful journey, and to dissever, as unavoidably they were dissevered, the friend and *élève*, from a patron whose own principles in public life, though so wholly different, yet were the result of the honest and virtuous prejudices of education, strengthened by exercise of reflection, and the sanction of all which appears to a good mind (whether mistaken or not) sacred and obligatory. Equally honest, and drawn from great study and deliberate thought, were the conclusions of him to whose support upon any other supposition the noble patron might think himself most justly entitled, as a public man, from a principle of gratitude which is binding where virtue is not to be sacrificed, but which, if virtue is to be sacrificed at her shrine, must become the angel of corruption and slavery, and must place the individual in direct opposition to the community in those points wherein the public interest, happiness, and liberty are most directly concerned, and most clearly entrusted to him. In refusing the offer of the Irish preferment, which was incomparably the greatest offer ever made to Dr. B., the writer of his memoir has sometimes

been at a loss to account for the motives which could have led to this refusal, as Dr. B. had never any objection to a bishopric in general. But from the different conversations which the writer of these pages had with his father, and intimations which from different circumstances of fireside family talk were received, he does not hesitate to pronounce, that the principal motive which led to this decision (a decision which vexed Lord Bathurst, inasmuch as he afterwards declared, he could not answer for ever having it in his power to make any other offer which should be more likely to be accepted, or perhaps so distinguished as to appointment,) was the consideration, that as private secretary, which office was to be attached to the appointment of Dr. B. to an Irish see, he might in his own conscience and in public opinion be involved in the responsibility of those measures which have entailed on the memories of the late Earl of Clare and the ill-fated Marquis of Londonderry, so much matter for regret and reproach among a large portion of the community.

It was understood that Lord Bathurst, had he chosen it, might have been Lord Lieutenant of Ireland instead of Lord Camden at this period; but the same freedom from all personal ambition, which distinguished this honourable and truly amiable man through the whole course of his

public life, then also induced him to prefer the dignified retirement at Cirencester; in which he lived till the shade of Mr. Pitt seemed to call upon him to shake off his indolence, and to stand forth in death as the assertor of that system, which in the hour of security and during his friend's life he thought was safe without his prominent exertion, and of which nothing but the feeling of gratitude, principle, and friendship induced him to stand forward during later years so prominent a champion; for his habits were domestic and retired, though his understanding was strong and his wit acute; and he had a natural indolence, and delicacy of taste and sentiment, with which the world is not congenial, which shrinks from exertion and activity, inasmuch as his heart was a stranger to any gratification which vanity can give. Blessed with the affections of an attached and beautiful wife, who in the later years of life retained the charm which manners and amiableness lengthen out, even to the day of the grave, when the mortal flowers have withered; and happy in a family, for whose worldly interests in place and power he never made his public services a subject of barter, but which, from a sense of honour, he decidedly neglected rather than advanced; his natural temper was always partial to retirement; and beyond the ordinary emolument

of official situation, except about £2800 a year clear from his Tellership of the Exchequer, which was obtained for him during his father's life, as a reward for his father's services as Chancellor for nearly twelve years, he never sought to enrich himself or to exalt his own immediate family, either by riches or by courtly honours; though, when last leaving office as President of the Council, he naturally appointed his second son clerk of the Council upon the vacancy which then occurred.

During the first year of Dr. Bathurst's residence at Durham he had the misfortune to lose a favourite son at the age of nine years: this boy, who was remarkably promising in every respect, and whose disposition, being peculiarly amiable and affectionate, had endeared himself so much to his father, even at that early period of life, that his loss was a most severe affliction. He fell a victim to a complication of disorders, being first seized with the hooping cough, which was followed by the measles and the croup. So much suffering was more than his tender years could bear; and he sunk to the grave almost before his friends were aware of his illness, or could have him removed from school to his parent's abode: it was many years before his father could hear his name mentioned without shedding tears. At the time of his illness his mother was near her confinement,

and he died the day before she gave birth to another son; and his father actually concealed the death of the favourite Charles from her during the whole month after her confinement. The restraint upon his feelings, whilst in her presence, may more easily be imagined than described; but her health and state of nerves were so delicate, that it was of the utmost consequence to keep so afflicting and agitating a circumstance from her knowledge during that period. The following epitaph was written by Dr. Bathurst, and engraved on the tomb-stone of this beloved child:

Memoriæ Sacrum

CAROLI HENRICI BATHURST,

Pueruli novem annorum,

Filii Hen^{ci} Bathurst, LL.D.

Prebend. Dunel.

Qui in hoc exiguo vitæ spatio

Haud obscura dedit documenta

Maturioris, quàm per ætatem licuit, ingenii,

Diligentiæ, ubi res posceret, indefessæ:

Indolis mitis, morigeræ, docilis,

Ad optimas artes aptæ,

Et, quod palmarium est,

Animi probi, simplicis, honesti.

Tu, qui lapidem huncce intueris,

Parens fortasse si sis,

Scies, patri optabilius esse,

Mortui filii virtutes contemplari,

Quàm vivi ignaviâ vitiisque

Quotidiè vexari.

Diem obiit supremum Dec. 5, 1795.

(TRANSLATION.)

Sacred to the Memory of

CHARLES HENRY BATHURST,

Son of Henry Bathurst, LL.D., Prebendary of Durham.

A child who in the early dawn of youth showed evident
signs of an understanding far beyond his years.

His capacity was strong, his application unwearied, his
temper gentle, compliant, and tractable; and he possessed
the most valuable of all endowments,
a candid, artless, honest mind.

If thou art a parent, you will know that it is more consoling
to a father to dwell upon the recollection of the virtues
of a departed son, than to be tormented every day
by the idleness and vices of a living one!

Sir John Eden and Sir Ralph Milbank were
his particular friends and acquaintance; and his
domestic and amiable virtues, which were wit-
nessed daily by the population of a great town,
together with his very easy and kind manners
with the man who made his coat, or shod his
horse, or sold his children almonds and raisins,
could not fail to make his character interesting to
all who enjoyed the fireside virtues. Constantly
in the strawberry season he was seen walking

with his boys to old Durham gardens, which lay near the river about a mile from the city, where he took no greater pleasure than regaling them with the excellent strawberries which were there sold; and if any little flaw or calumny attached to any character of male or female in the neighbourhood, he was always eager and ready to hide a fault, or to set right a misrepresentation or misconstruction. He enjoyed the neighbourhood and friendship of his old friend Dr. Prosser, who was made Rector of Gateshead by the Bishop of Durham; and with Lord Barrington he was very friendly; and it must be added, that this latter friendship, though of far more recent date, seemed in years and attachment to have almost outlived the former. Lord Barrington had much pride, and perhaps some prejudice, but a strong mind and a friendly heart; and when the public conduct of Dr. B. seems to have set his oldest friends at a distance from him, he saw at every opportunity the same attention and friendship displayed towards him by the late Lord Barrington, as when he was his near neighbour and visiting acquaintance. As the children of Dr. Bathurst grew up, he naturally felt, as a father, some anxiety that he should be placed in a situation where he might provide for them. Perhaps, having refused Lord Bathurst's offer of an Irish bishopric,

he felt the more; and he would sometimes express an impatience that his old friend and pupil, Lord Bathurst, did not push him forward to some situation of more eminence in his profession in England: and it could not but be mortifying to him afterwards, to see his nephew's brother-in-law, Mr. Addington, upon the retirement of Mr. Pitt, put forward Dr. Burgess and Dr. Huntingford before him; though, as to these individuals, he was never heard to drop any expression but that of respect: and even Mr. Addington, there was reason to believe, would have placed him in the see of Exeter, had not Lord Bathurst divided in the House of Lords with Lord Melville, on the side of adjournment upon a motion made respecting the conduct and merits of the Doctorate Administration; thereby distinctly, as was natural, showing that he, Lord B., was determined to follow the counsels and fortunes of Mr. Pitt, who made about the same time, on the same subject, a similar motion in the House of Commons.

Amid the anxiety, however, which this good man felt for the concerns of himself and his immediate family, he did not forget his kindred in another country and under another climate; and he most anxiously applied, as may be seen from the following letters, in behalf of his brother,

Mr. Robert Bathurst, who was an old and meritorious servant in the civil service of the East India Company. The following letters refer to applications in his favour to the Governor-General of India. Applications equally urgent he made afterwards to Lords Wellesley and Moira; to the former direct, and to the latter through Lord B.; and also through Mr. Coke, which were attended with great success.

Letter to Lord Grenville from Dr. Bathurst, in behalf of his brother, Robert Bathurst, Esq.

My Lord,

If affection for a very deserving brother, who has been absent from England five-and-twenty years, should prompt me to take a greater liberty with your Lordship than I have any right to take, my motive must plead my excuse.

Of my brother's character, I need say very little,—it is well known in India, and by those who are conversant with Indian affairs.

He is at present second Judge in the district Moorshedabad. His salary, though a considerable one, is not sufficient to allow him to lay by such a sum as may enable him to gratify the natural and laudable wish of returning to his own country, with a moderate fortune, honourably acquired, before he is worn out with age or soured

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by disappointment. May I hope that your Lordship will endeavour to promote, in any manner you judge proper, this wish, of a very worthy man, who belongs to a family with whom you are not unacquainted, and who is brother to one whom you formerly did the favour to honour with your regard?

I am, my Lord, with real respect,
Yours, &c. &c.

H. B.

Old Bond Street, No. 4,
Jan. 20th, 1796.

Cleveland Row, Feb. 5th, 1796.

Sir,

I have received your letter, and can with the greatest truth assure you that it would be a matter of much satisfaction to me to have it in my power to promote your wishes in favour of your brother. The duties of my present situation place me at such a distance from the detail of India affairs, that I am really ignorant of any mode in which I can be of service to him, especially as I believe the appointments in the line in which your brother is engaged are almost uniformly made abroad, and merely submitted for confirmation here. If there is any particular ob-

ject in view, in which I can with propriety assist him, I shall have great pleasure in doing so, being ever,

With sincere regard, your most faithful
and obedient humble servant,

GRENVILLE.

The Rev. Dr. Bathurst.

My Lord,

Accept my grateful acknowledgments for your very kind letter. Engaged as you unavoidably must be in a variety of important occupations, I am sorry to trouble you a second time; but perhaps you will have the goodness to mention my brother's name to Mr. Dundas, as a man who has served five-and-twenty years in India, and who has filled more than one station in that country, with credit to himself, and advantage to his employers. His principal object is, to be one of the council, or, should that be unattainable, to be chief at Benares. If, through your Lordship's recommendations, either of these points could be secured, you would render a most important service to a very deserving man, indeed to his whole family, to whom his generosity is unbounded, and at the same time confer the greatest of all possible

obligations upon one who is, with real respect and regard,

Your Lordship's most obedient, &c. &c.

H. B.

Old Bond Street, No. 4,
Feb. the 7th, 1796.

Cleveland Row, May 23rd, 1796.

Dear Sir,

In looking over my papers at the close of the Session, I find I have omitted to send you the enclosed, which is the answer I received from Mr. Dundas to a letter I had written to him in consequence of that which I received from you. I can only add to it the very sincere assurances of the pleasure I should feel in being of any use to a person so nearly connected with you.

I am ever, with the greatest regard,

Dear Sir,

Your most faithful and obedient humble servant,

GRENVILLE.

The Rev. Dr. Bathurst.

The letter from Mr. Dundas is missing.

A letter to Dr. Bathurst from Dr. Cornwallis, Bishop of Lichfield and Coventry, in favour of his brother Robert, above mentioned.

Wimpole Street, Feb. 20th, 1797.

Dear Sir,

You may be assured that I am very ready to attend to a request from you, and that I shall take an opportunity of mentioning your brother to Lord Cornwallis with my most earnest wishes in his favour.

Mrs. Cornwallis and my daughter join in best compliments to Mrs. Bathurst ; and,

I am, dear Sir, with great regard,

Your very faithful humble servant,

J. LICHFIELD AND COVENTRY.

The following is a letter received by Dr. B. from Lord Grenville in 1800, in answer to one written to him by Dr. B., on the subject of his advancement in the Church.

Cleveland Row, July 3rd, 1800.

My dear Sir,

My having hitherto delayed answering your letter of the 18th of June, has not, as I trust you will readily believe, been owing to any indifference to the object of it, but to a desire of

ascertaining, as correctly as I could, the point upon which you desired me to procure you such information as you wished. I have conversed with Mr. Pitt on the subject: he expressed to me a very high, and, you will allow me to add, a very just opinion of your character and pretensions to advancement in the Church; together with a strong desire to gratify the wishes which our friend Lord Bathurst had expressed to him on the subject; and he added, that whenever Lord Bathurst should be in town, he would wish for an opportunity of conversing with him fully respecting your situation and views, so as to enable himself to explain, as precisely as the nature of such a subject can admit of, the means which he may then think he has of forwarding your wishes. Your interests cannot be in better hands than Lord Bathurst's; but whenever such discussion takes place, you may assure yourself of my readiness to render every service in my power.

I am, my dear Sir, with sincere regard,
Your most faithful and obedient humble servant,

GRENVILLE.

The Rev. Dr. Bathurst, Durham.

CHAPTER V.

Includes a period from A. D. 1800 to the end of A. D. 1807—
with an account of Dr. Bathurst's appointment to the
bishopric of Norwich, obtained through and commu-
nicated by the late Earl Bathurst — and embraces the
Bishop's first charge, and two letters from Lord Grenville
—also two family letters.

FROM 1800 to 1805 no particulars worth no-
ticing in the life of Dr. Bathurst occurred. It
was not till the beginning of the year 1805 that
Dr. Bathurst obtained a mitre,—and, it must be
said, wholly, through Lord Bathurst's influence
with Mr. Pitt: Lord Grenville was then in op-
position. Lord Bathurst commenced his letter,
which somehow is lost, (though the writer of this
memoir remembers the greater part of it by heart,
upon this occasion,) with explaining, as a reason,
why his communication had not been made some
days sooner, that the delay was owing to the offer
of an exchange having been first made to Dr.
Madan, Bishop of Peterborough, he having

been the *only* bishop "who followed Mr. Pitt's fortunes when out:" at the conclusion he said, "I need not add how happy I am to have been the means of placing you in a situation to which by your merits you are so fully entitled." To obtain this appointment was no small proof of Lord Bathurst's interest with Mr. Pitt; for Lord Lonsdale, who wished to have the offer of the appointment for the late Dr. Zouche, was for three weeks out of humour, and half unwilling to take the stall of Durham for his uncle, who succeeded Dr. Bathurst in the same, although Dr. Zouche himself, there is good reason to believe, was never anxious for any such situation as that of a bishop. The appointment of Dr. Bathurst was complimented by a leading newspaper in the following words:—

"The public will be happy to find that the
"vacant mitre is given to Dr. Henry Bathurst;
"Prebendary of Durham, who, from his con-
"nexions and character, and the high place he
"holds in the esteem of mankind, has long been
"marked out for the most exalted situation in the
"church. Great praise is due to the minister
"who selects such men to fill the first situations
"in their professions."

It ought not to be omitted here, that in the same letter conveying the offer of the bishopric of

Norwich, Lord Bathurst inclosed a letter from the late Lord Mulgrave, then Secretary for Foreign Affairs, appointing Dr. B.'s son Benjamin, then twenty-one years of age, Secretary of Legation to the Court of Stockholm. Dr. Bathurst succeeded Dr. Charles Manners Sutton in the see of Norwich, when that prelate, by translation to Canterbury, became Primate of all England. Dr. Prosser, since Archdeacon of Durham, preached, at Dr. B.'s request, the consecration sermon : and this last appointment to the Bench by Mr. Pitt really seemed to give as general satisfaction as it was possible. Lord Grenville wrote to Dr. B. among others, and assured him that whatever difference might exist between him and Mr. Pitt, (Lord Grenville was then separated from Mr. Pitt in politics,) they should at all events agree in the propriety of this appointment. Mr. Woodhull, who was no great friend to bishops, in a letter to his old friend said, that he was sure he would act in the spirit of the answer of that Pope, who, when raised from a study to a papal chair, said, "*Nec mores nec nomen mutabo, sed Henricus fui et Henricus ero.*"

Immediately after this, the new prelate, now having passed his sixtieth year, entered on the duties of his sacred office ; and on his primary visitation of his diocese, in 1806, delivered a

Charge to the clergy, afterwards printed at their request, and dedicated to them. In this composition he congratulates himself on being placed over such a respectable body of men.

“ I shall study,” says he, “ to conciliate their affection and esteem,—not, however, by any mean unmanly compliance with the prejudice, the passions, or the selfish views of individuals, and still less by granting any indulgence to idleness, or the least wilful neglect of that solemn obligation which we all of us entered into when we were ordained ; but by giving every one, who may have occasion to come to me, a patient hearing and a kind reception, and the few who can want it, the best advice which it is in my power to suggest. I know,” he added, “ how difficult it is to please all men, be their situation in life what it may, nor am I solicitous to do this ; but the approbation of the wise and good of every rank, of every age, I am truly desirous of obtaining, because I consider such approbation as the best earthly reward of those humble but strenuous efforts which I am called upon by so many motives to exert, and will endeavour to exert, in support of a cause so deeply interesting to us all—I mean the cause of religion and morality.”

In conformity to the ancient custom of a bishop delivering his sentiments respecting some of those

leading topics connected with the clerical profession, the Bishop next presents a general view of religion:—

“In this country, from the period of the Reformation to this very hour, the established church has been incessantly exposed to a variety of attacks, from persons of a very different description, and from opinions of a very different tendency. There was a time, when the danger from the increase of popery was thought to be so alarming, that the abilities of the statesman and of the divine were almost exclusively directed to that single quarter. In the theological controversies which took place between the learned of both parties for more than a century after the glorious era I have just mentioned, the superiority of the Protestant writers over their adversaries, both in erudition and argument, has, I believe, very rarely been questioned. Happy would it be for mankind, if in matters of this nature recourse were never had to any other weapons but those of reason and learning: but unfortunately these weapons alone were not then thought to be an adequate security either for church or state; laws therefore were enacted against known and even against suspected papists, which (as the late Lord Mansfield long since observed) can be defended upon no ground but that of necessity.

Force, however, in the concerns of religion is unblest and unavailing, or at least can produce only a transient effect; and this has uniformly proved to be the case wherever it has been made use of. This obvious and important truth seems now to be admitted on all sides. More enlightened and just ideas of toleration have of late prevailed, and have everywhere taken place of that over-heated religious zeal, which is alike the bane of public peace and of private comfort. Christians, of all denominations, alike appear at last to be convinced, that they are not required by their great Master, or by the maxims of sound policy, to support any particular mode of religious worship by means directly in opposition to the end and design of all religion. It is but justice to say, that the Roman Catholics of this age and country have not been behind-hand with Protestants in adopting these liberal and truly Christian sentiments. Their conduct upon some recent occasions, and the unequivocal declarations made by them in a variety of publications, are strongly expressive of their total disapprobation of compulsion in religion, and also decidedly prove that they disclaim many of those highly exceptionable tenets which were once a part of their creed. It would, therefore, be very unfair to involve in the guilt of the misguided zealots of former days, a

body of men of a far different character, and to whom it is our duty, and should be our inclination, to show every mark of benevolence, both as Christian brethren and as deserving fellow-subjects.

“The entire overthrow of our ecclesiastical establishments during the interregnum, by sectaries of various denominations, and the frequent perils to which the established church was exposed at the Restoration, and for many years after that time, by persons of the same description, made it necessary for the legislature, *‘who wisely considered the church as an integral part of the state,’* to pass laws for its safety, which, it must be confessed, were in some instances as severe in their operation upon Protestant non-conformists, as those to which Catholics were made liable. Irritated by the indignities which she had suffered, and exasperated by the severities which she had experienced during the unfortunate period I have mentioned, if the Church of England did not always show that lenity and moderation which are her general characteristics, it is not much to be wondered at : it would be matter of surprise if she had ; indeed the exigency of the times frequently demanded rigid statutes, and this exigency is their best justification ; because the pressure of peculiar circumstances may, under

the most free government possible, warrant very strict and even oppressive regulations of a temporary nature, if the public safety clearly demand such : these regulations, however, no wise statesman will wish to enforce, when the circumstances which occasion them no longer require their continuance : but exactly *how long* they shall continue, and when they shall cease, is a question which an able practical statesman is alone competent to decide.

“ With respect to our dissenting brethren of this day, as they have, with a very few exceptions, laid aside that passionate invective, that offensive acrimonious manner, both of writing and of speaking, which they formerly too much practised, it is highly incumbent upon us, in return, to feel for them, however differing from them in the forms of external religious worship, or in points of doubtful disputation, all that good-will and cordiality which they seem disposed to show us ; and it is more particularly our duty to do this at the present very serious crisis, when union is so loudly called for from all quarters, and is so much wanted,—a crisis when we are threatened with invasion by the common enemy of every country which has a territory worth plundering, or a constitution worth subverting. At such a crisis it is surely requisite not only to lay aside

every emotion of resentment, but to cultivate a cordial good-will towards Christians of every description; who are warmly attached to our civil constitution, and agree with us, moreover, in the great essentials of Christianity. Upon an occasion like this, when I deliver an opinion so strongly in favour of our Catholic and dissenting brethren, I do not mean to say that the clergy of England live in those halcyon days when 'Righteousness and Peace have kissed each other;' and that, instead of exerting all possible care and diligence, they may sleep and take their rest—this is by no means my intention: he indeed must survey the world around him in a very superficial manner who can entertain such an idea. From the first preaching of the Gospel to this very moment, vigilance and activity have always been, and will I fear never cease to be, indispensable requisites in every minister of that Gospel, and certainly were never more so than now; because, though I admit, and I firmly believe it may truly be admitted, that we have no danger to apprehend either from Catholic or Protestant non-conformists, the established clergy have, notwithstanding, full occasion for unwearied attention to the great business in which they are engaged. Secure as the Church of England may be thought from external attacks, '*intus est hostis*,' the unity of

this Church is disturbed, and its very existence endangered more and more every day, on the one hand by the mistaken zeal of ill-informed enthusiasts, and on the other by that widely spread indifference and lukewarmness which have pervaded so large a portion of its members. It is hard to say which of these two extremes is most unfriendly to that pure and perfect system of faith and manners which we profess."

After this the Bishop alludes to those who "lay claim to irresistible influxes of divine grace." He does not accuse them, without distinction, of endeavouring to impose upon others, but he is thoroughly persuaded that in many instances they deceive themselves: "oppressed with melancholy, or intoxicated with vanity," adds he, "they mistake the wild conceits of a disordered fancy, for the real influence of that spirit which cometh down from the Father of lights, and the genuine source of which is in all cases best known by its fruits."

To combat these, he very highly recommends not persecution or violence, but increased diligence, patience, and meekness; and, above all, private personal instruction.

With regard to those who are termed Evangelical Preachers, his Lordship wishes not to revive animosity or rekindle disputes, and still

less to pass an indiscriminate censure upon many pious and learned clergymen. "On the contrary," says he, "I am so far from thinking ill of these persons, that I believe they are often represented as promoters of enthusiasm, for no other reason but because they are more deeply impressed with the sense of the important duties attached to their profession, than many who object to their conduct. I must however unequivocally declare, that to assume a title which appears to distinguish one part of the established clergy from another, to alienate a flock from their regulated appointed pastor, by exercising the spiritual gifts of preaching, or of exhorting whenever or wherever any zealous individual may think fit, can have no tendency but to injure our ecclesiastical establishment, by creating divisions where union is so indispensably requisite."

The following quotation has become a subject of animadversion, and has been considered by some, notwithstanding the concession made, as not strictly accordant with that uniform liberality so eminently and so worthily displayed on every other occasion :—

"Nor is this all ; that most important of all objects in every point of view, I mean the moral and religious improvement of the lower orders of society, would thus (by teaching from house to

house) be effectually obtained in the most unexceptionable manner; and the rising generation would be taught the doctrines and the precepts of the national religion, according to the plan of education established by our pious and judicious fathers at the Reformation; a plan which, as a member of the Church of England, I must be permitted to prefer to the *generalising system* of Mr. Joseph Lancaster, who is now so much talked of; of which system, notwithstanding whatever merit it may have in other respects, the distinguishing doctrines of Christianity make no part: at the same time, I am ready to bear full testimony to the benevolent intention of this humane and active friend of the poor, and also to the ingenuity displayed in carrying some parts of his system into execution. I should, however, be exceedingly sorry to see his 'Institutes of Christianity,' whenever they make their appearance, supersede the use of our incomparable Church Catechism, and be substituted in the room of the Creed, the Lord's Prayer, and the Ten Commandments."

In considering the topics touched upon in the above Charge, we have particularly noticed the passage in which the Bishop extols the wisdom of our forefathers in having made the Church an "integral part of the state:" but whether religion or government have materially benefited by

this alliance between Church and state, is certainly a matter of dispute with many, in its present shape and influences ; though, on the whole, the writer of this Life is disposed to agree, all things considered, with the opinion above expressed in 1806.

Among the Bishop's papers are found remarks alluding to Mr. Lancaster, and written at a subsequent period, in his Charge of 1813, when the Bishop's mind seems to have taken a larger view,—whether juster, or otherwise, we shall not give an opinion : though this we must remember, that “love or united feelings of affection towards each other, as Christians, seems to be the essence of Christian charity ; at the same time that an external church, we must allow, must not be latitudinarian, lest it promote first indifference, and then infidelity.”

The following is one passage alluded to, and sufficient to show the progress of his opinions in advance towards more unconfined views : speaking of Dr. Bell and Mr. Lancaster in 1813, he says :—“ Their generous end is in great measure “ the same ; and their joint efforts will, I trust, “ convey ere long, to every part of the united “ kingdom, the benefits of early religious instruction, accompanied with those habits of “ order, industry, and obedience, which render

“ the lower classes of society happy in them-
“ selves, and the firmest bulwark of the govern-
“ ment under which they live. In this truly
“ Christian ‘labour of love,’ there can be no occa-
“ sion for any *rivalry*, but who shall be most
“ earnest ; nor is it expedient, in my opinion, for
“ the friends of either party to make invidious
“ comparisons with respect to the inferior ar-
“ rangements of the Madras or the Lancaster
“ systems, and still less to exclude unnecessarily
“ any denomination of Christians from such useful
“ institutions. Because no inconvenience what-
“ ever can (as it strikes me) possibly arise to an
“ establishment, from the mixture in those schools
“ of the children of churchmen with those of
“ dissenters ; and certainly none to the latter,
“ if proper care be taken that *all* children indis-
“ criminate are obliged to attend some place of
“ religious worship, approved by their parents or
“ guardians,” &c. &c.

But a still clearer proof that the Bishop of Norwich did modify his sentiments still further in favour of religious liberty, may be inferred from a part of his Charge in 1813 ; and in particular, that his views with respect to Mr. Lancaster were more favourable : the abstracts however, just given, supersede the necessity of further proof.

It is well known how extremely liberal the

Bishop has always been, in respect to those who differ from him either in politics or religion : it is not therefore surprising, that contemplating *the Catholic question* both in regard to its doctrinal effect and its immediate policy, he should have advocated that side of the subject which leans towards mildness. During his residence at Durham, he wrote a pamphlet entitled 'The Justice and Policy of granting a full and complete Toleration to the Roman Catholics of Ireland, asserted by a Clergyman of the Church of England,' in a letter to Lord Grenville, which fully explained his sentiments on the subject ;—a pamphlet which it would only be swelling the bulk of this volume unnecessarily to publish, but which, if requested by any considerable numbers, shall be given to the public. Lord Grenville recommended the suppression of it at the time, telling the Bishop that if it should go abroad, it would do no good, and stop his advancement in the Church, the Court being so decidedly opposed to such sentiments.

It may not be amiss to vary the prolixity of narrative by the insertion of a few letters, which will greatly illustrate at once the private and public character of Dr. Bathurst : and not only those which are written by him, but those which are addressed to him, at the same time

reflect honour both on Dr. B. and his correspondents.

Copy of two letters from the Bishop, written from London in 1806, to his daughter Tryphena, now Mrs. Thistlethwayte.

My dear little Try,

Many thanks for your very kind and very well written letter: if I had only such agreeable correspondents as you and Coote, writing, instead of being the plague of my life, would be the joy of it. The doll is bought; but I intend that it should travel with me, for fear, as she is rather a delicate lady, she should meet with some personal affront or injury, were she to take a place in a common stage-coach. If you have any other commission, I shall be happy to execute it. Adieu,—love to all.

Your affectionate father,

H. NORWICH.

London, Dec. 23rd, 1806.

Tuesday night.

My dear Tryphena,

Few long letters would have given me half the pleasure which I received from your entertaining note; but no part of it gave me so

much satisfaction, as that in which you say that you regret my absence. A grave bishop, you see, can be as vain, and delight as much in a compliment, as the youngest Miss of your acquaintance. If you can *live* without me three more weeks, your trial will, I hope, be at an end. The death of the pig is an important event; I grieve to think I shall not come in for my share of him. I am just returned from dining at Lambeth: we had a very nice dessert; I wish you, Catharine,* Caroline, and Coote had been there. There were some fine French pears, as big as my head, wig and all.

As you are a great politician, I cannot conclude my letter without telling you the present state of things. The late administration, much to their honour, told the King, (who wished them to stand their ground,) that it would be a useless attempt, and injurious to him and to the public: His Majesty therefore sent immediately for Lord Grenville. Matters are not yet adjusted; the arrival of Lord Moira is waited for. On Thursday every thing will be settled. There will be a complete sweep:—Lord Henry Petty will be Chancellor of the Exchequer; Lord Grenville, First

* A daughter of Sir E. Coote, now dead, who was staying with the Bishop's family.

Lord of the Treasury; the Marquis of Buckingham, First Lord of the Admiralty. Love to all.

H. NORWICH.

When the Whig administration were in power, the Bishop, who appears hitherto in life to have acted upon the general principles of supporting government,—excepting in cases of an uncommon nature, and peculiar meaning, where it was impossible to submit opinions, of a different nature deliberately formed, to the judgment of any other political character than himself,—seems by the following letter to have intimated his desire to give his friend Lord Grenville, then minister, his support; and this was the more excusable, probably because, till the separation of Mr. Pitt and Lord Grenville in 1806, Lord Bathurst and Lord Grenville had been the closest political friends. The following is the letter of Lord Bathurst on the subject of his proxy:—

Cirencester, Jan. 7th, 1807.

My dear Lord,

I was for many years in the habit of giving my proxy to Lord Grenville, and am very sorry that circumstances should at present prevent my still doing so: I cannot however make any

objection to your giving yours to any of the Bench whom he may recommend.

Lady Bathurst is tolerably well.

I am yours, ever sincerely,

BATHURST.

On the 25th of March, a change of administration again took place. Upon the dissolution of the administration of Lord Grenville and the Whigs, the Bishop received the following letter from Lord G. :—

Dropmore, April 5th, 1807.

My dear Lord,

The Bishop of Oxford communicated to me your very kind and friendly letter, and I desired him to express in my name, how greatly I had felt flattered and gratified by it. As you were so obliging as to entrust your proxy to me when you left town, I think it right to mention to you, that I entered it in the Bishop of Chichester's name, and that I do not know what part he is likely to take in the discussions now coming on in Parliament, nor how far you might yourself wish your opinion to be included in his, whichever way it may go. This I thought myself bound to mention to you. I do not write

to canvass you for your vote : if you think yourself at liberty to give it in conformity to the opinions which I hold, and on which I have acted, I shall undoubtedly feel much pleasure from the circumstance. If other considerations, such as I can easily conceive, should lead to a different conclusion, I shall only regret the circumstance, but it certainly cannot alter the very sincere sentiments of respect and regard with which I am,

My dear Lord,

Your Lordship's most faithful
and most obedient humble servant,
GRENVILLE.

Bishop of Norwich.

It appears that the Bishop, upon Lord Bathurst's re-accession to power, gave him his proxy, though on the Catholic question, and afterwards generally he ceased to support his administrations.

Letter from Lord Grenville to the Bishop of Norwich.

Downing Street, April 12th, 1807.

My dear Lord,

I received your kind letter yesterday, but was too much occupied to be able to find a moment for answering it. My toleration extends to politics as well as to religion, and when my

friends cannot act with me, I do them full credit for their kind wishes : indeed, there are many of them, and you are among the number, whose good opinion gratifies me much more than their votes could.

Believe me ever, my dear Lord,

With the most sincere regard,

Most truly yours,

GRENVILLE.

Bishop of Norwich.

CHAPTER VI.

Embraces particulars from 1807 to the end of A. D. 1809.

ON the 27th of May, 1808, Lord Grenville moved for the House of Lords “to resolve itself into a Committee, to consider of the Petition of the Irish Catholics:” after a long and able address, which led to a most important and interesting debate, he was supported by the Bishop of Norwich in his maiden speech; which, having been given in the public newspapers of the day, it will not be necessary to give again here: the only speech which will be given, will be one which is left written out in his own hand on another occasion, which, on this subject, he delivered in reply to Dr. Randolph, then Bishop of London, and which will be in the Appendix.

Previous to the meeting of Parliament in 1808, when the above speech was made, Lord Bathurst sent to the Bishop, requesting a conference at Apsley House, and remonstrated with him in

friendly but strong terms on his intention of voting and speaking in favour of the Catholic claims, and concluded with distinctly stating, that if he, the Bishop, were determined to take the part which he did seem determined to take, that while his character and good esteem, being such as they were, and in high favour with the King, he could have no scruple to do him any service with the government, if he, the Bishop, remained even neuter; that he (Lord B.) could never, if thus opposed to the Court, again mention his name to the King (George III.); and the same was true, if it had been said as to George IV. The same, we assert, was true as to both; for the Bishop communicated to his son, from unquestionable authority, that afterwards, when during the Regency, Her Majesty Queen Charlotte had a list of the Bishops, which she was conning over, and canvassing who should be bishop of London when Dr. Randolph died, some one present suggested, that the Bishop of Norwich would be a proper person: "No," said the Queen; "he voted against the King:"—a better trait, it may be thought, of Her Majesty as a wife, than as a politician.

It is but justice to Lord Bathurst however to say, that he did not withdraw his attentions to his old tutor's family in important instances, of which

an offer made to the Bishop's eldest son, through Mr. Newcome, of an Irish deanery, viz. Killala, upon the death of Dean Kirwan, is a proof; (that offer having been made from the Duke of Richmond at Lord B.'s request;) but at that time (1809) the Bishop's eldest son had just obtained the accession of a second piece of preferment in Norfolk, which, from its value, put it out of his power, with justice to his family, to exchange an income then of £1200 a year, for a deanery of little more than half, without terms; which the opposition of his father to the government did not warrant insisting upon, while the Catholic question was considered so much a Court and government subject of objection.

In 1809 the chancellorship of Norwich became vacant, by the Bishop's eldest son resigning the same, upon obtaining the living of North Creak; and the Bishop bestowed the same upon Mr. Millard, a very worthy man, and not of his own politics, but recommended by the present Archbishop, together with Mr. Oldershaw, as gentlemen in their profession, upon whom particular reliance ought to be placed. Mr. Millard was a very discreet and amiable man; but it is to be lamented that Mr. Oldershaw, even though long differing from the Bishop on great public subjects, was not made more especially the friend and con-

fidant of his diocesan. Mr. O. is a man of very superior understanding, high but virtuous and honourable prejudices, and beloved by his profession : Mr. Millard was a very highly respectable man ; Mr. Oldershaw, a man of uncommon merit ; and this the writer of these pages says, although, had his opinion been followed in this choice of a confidential professional friend, he would not have now been Archdeacon of Norwich ; which he afterwards became upon Mr. Millard's death, and the exchange of the archdeaconry for the chancellorship upon Mr. M.'s demise : upon that occasion, the Bishop certainly gave a distinguished proof of his liberality, by appointing Mr. Yonge, Chancellor,—a gentleman, of whom it is needless to say more, than that he stands in equal estimation of the public with Mr. Oldershaw.

In the spring of the year 1809, the Bishop's third son, Benjamin,—who had previously filled the situation of Secretary of Legation at the Court of Stockholm, to which Lord Mulgrave, at Lord Bathurst's desire, had appointed him, as a very clever young man in the diplomatique line,—was appointed by Lord Bathurst, (then *pro tempore* Secretary for Foreign Affairs,) Envoy Extraordinary on an important secret mission to the Court of Vienna. The Continent was at that

period in a state of war and confusion, and consequently of considerable danger to one in an English ambassador's situation : his disposition was sanguine, and his hopes and expectations of the success of the Allies were most ardent. A short time before the battle of Wagram, his father received a letter from him, intimating the same. After the Emperor Napoleon's complete success, the young Envoy's disappointment and chagrin were great in proportion to the sanguine hopes he had indulged. In the month of November, the Bishop, having purchased a house in London, removed there with all his family : his son Benjamin was at this time supposed to be on his journey homewards, and his arrival was anxiously expected every day : it was a period of painful anxiety, in consequence of the dangers to which he was exposed in his journey, surrounded by enemies on all sides ; and the impossibility of his friends receiving intelligence of him by letter, rendered them doubly anxious and uncertain as to his safety :—day after day passed on, and no tidings arrived of him. It was concluded he had taken a circuitous route, and travelled *incog.* to avoid falling into the hands of the French ; however weeks had now elapsed, and he was not arrived :—the state of mind of his wife and relations may more easily be imagined than described.

“ I perfectly well remember,” says his sister Tryphena, “ every knock at the street-door causing a lively emotion, arising from a hope it might be him :” at length, one evening in December, his father received an express from Lord Wellesley, requesting his immediate attendance at Apsley House, his Lordship having something of importance to communicate : on my father’s return, we were all alarmed at his pale and serious aspect : he informed us, that government had received intelligence of the sudden and mysterious disappearance of Mr. Benjamin Bathurst, at Perleberg, a small town on the route from Vienna, where he had stopped for rest and refreshment : he had travelled all the way the public road from Vienna, in spite of remonstrances. It was stated, that on his arrival at Perleberg he sat down to write in a small room, with his papers scattered about him ; and after writing for some time, he went to the inn-yard, telling Krouse (the messenger, who travelled in the same carriage with him, and who was his constant attendant,) that he was going to order the horses out. One account stated, Mr. Bathurst had been seen standing in the kitchen or some of the offices, in the midst of postilions, ostlers, &c. and pulling out his watch, and a purse containing a considerable sum of money before those people, one

or two of whom were suspected to have taken an opportunity of hustling him away, and afterwards robbing and murdering him : but the men who were taken up on suspicion, proved the improbability of such a story. The former account was sent by Krouse, who added, that Mr. Bathurst was seen by the ostlers, &c., in the yard ; but, that after waiting for him nearly an hour his servants began to make inquiries for him ; but he had neither been seen nor heard of after that time, nor was he ever traced afterwards, notwithstanding the most indefatigable and diligent search, and the high rewards offered both by government and his own family. A pair of overalls belonging to him were brought to Krouse by an old woman, who said she had found them in a copse near the town, but they contained nothing excepting a letter to his wife, scribbled on a dirty scrap of paper : this valuable relic was conveyed in safety to his wife. The editor of this memoir never obtained a sight of it, but has understood it to contain a representation of the dangers to which he was exposed, and the enemies who surrounded him, and expressions of his fears of never reaching England : these, with a few words on other subjects, were scrawled in pencil, and were sent with the overalls to his wife, and were the last trace of him ever discovered. The

Count and Countess D'Entragues, who were so cruelly murdered by an Italian servant, were heard to say, they could prove that Mr. Bathurst was murdered at Magdeburg fortress: his brother, General Bathurst, upon this statement, waited upon the Count immediately to make inquiries, but was not admitted at the time, as the Count was confined to his bed by illness; he had afterwards no opportunity of seeing him, it being less than a fortnight after that he and his wife were destroyed by the Italian, who, when the horrid deed was done, cut his own throat: another account stated him to have taken ship, and that he was lost at sea: another said he was destroyed by a servant in revenge, for some harsh expressions used on some occasion by his master; and upon parting with the man, the man declared his resolution to be avenged; it was said, this man took an open boat, and was never heard of after the disappearance of his master.

The following is a letter from Lord Bathurst to the Bishop's wife, in answer to an inquiry from her relative to her son Benjamin:—

Curzon Street, Jan. 19th, 1810.

My dear Madam,

There is no account which makes it certain what has become of Mr. B. Bathurst: if he

has fallen, there is much more reason to imagine that it is by the hands of others, than that it was by his own hand : he has lost no money at play, nor has he in any way misconducted himself. I am desirous of seeing the Bishop, to whom I will communicate some accounts which I have received from Berlin. It will be desirable not to make any communication to Mrs. B. Bathurst until the Bishop arrives, as there is no certainty; though it would be wrong if I were to disguise from you that the accounts leave little to hope, except always that it was not by his own hand.

I am, my dear Madam,
Very faithfully yours,
BATHURST.

In another letter Lord Bathurst expressed himself thus respecting this mysterious event:—
“All that I can say is, that he has not lost any money at play, nor has he misconducted himself in any manner.”

Various accounts were given, each new one contradicting the last; but notwithstanding the immense rewards offered, and the exertions both of government and his family, no information to be the least depended upon relative to his fate has ever transpired: his wife travelled over Germany with her brother, making the most minute

inquiries, after having had an audience of the Emperor Napoleon, who solemnly declared his ignorance of Mr. Bathurst's fate, and gave her leave to make every possible inquiry to satisfy her mind on the subject. How far the word of Napoleon was to be depended upon may with some be a matter of doubt: there appears no cause to doubt his veracity in this particular, although it is very possible that his ministers or agents might have made away with an obnoxious envoy without communicating the matter to their master. But the mother of Mr. Bathurst always more suspected the Court of Austria, whose conduct he despised, and many individuals about which he made his enemies, by reproaching them in his letters to England for their knavery; which letters, it is understood, when he was a few years before secretary to Sir E. Paget, were opened at the Post-office at Vienna, and complained of to Lord Liverpool, then Secretary for the Foreign Department, who desired Lord Bathurst to write to his kinsman and put him on his guard.

The Bishop's second son James, who was military or rather private secretary to Sir Arthur Wellesley (now Duke of Wellington) in Portugal, returned home on the 27th of December, 1810, in a very bad state of health: he had always been much attached to Benjamin; and his state

of health, which had become very delicate from the fatigues and exertion he had undergone in the peninsula, was aggravated by the affliction which he suffered for his loss. In the course of a twelvemonth, however, he completely recovered, and has been long since married well and happily to Lady Caroline Stewart, daughter of the late Earl of Castlestewart; and his talents for business, both civil and military, were so long only kept in the background, through the prejudice and coolness (it is to be feared) which his father's public conduct had caused in the friends of the Court.

The following is a letter from Lord Grenville, on the subject of the election at Oxford:—

Camelford House, Oct. 23rd, 1809.

My dear Lord,

Being apprised that my friends at Oxford have taken the resolution of putting my name forward as a candidate on the vacancy, which I am truly sorry to say is daily expected, by the Duke of Portland's death, I think I should be wanting to that friendship with which you honour me, if I omitted to apprise you of the circumstance.

I am perfectly well aware of the circumstances of your situation and feelings. Nothing but the *res dura* of politics would, I am sure, produce in Lord Bathurst's mind any wish adverse to my success in this honourable pursuit; and should any circumstance connected with his situation prevent you from expressing, in this instance, the kindness which I flatter myself you are so good as to feel towards me, I can only regret it; nor can that or any other event change the admiration I feel for your public conduct, or the great and sincere personal regard, with which

I am ever, my dear Lord, your most faithful
and most obedient humble servant,
GRENVILLE.

Bishop of Norwich.

The whole of the Bishop's wishes and influence were given on this occasion to Lord Grenville. From this period Lord Bathurst felt sore, and political feelings entered into the friends of the Cabinet, which evidently interfered with personal regard for the Bishop of Norwich. Indeed, events have proved, that, for the Bishop's family, the transfer of his regards was most unfortunate; and it is hardly a compensation, though a high compliment, that the Emperor Napoleon was

heard to say, that the Bishop of Norwich was the only enlightened Bishop on the English bench. Whatever may have been this great, though not legitimate, monarch's errors, we may say of him, that he was worthy of a crown.

CHAPTER VII.

Passes over space from 1809, and proceeds to February, 1812—embraces Mr. Firth's letter and the Bishop's answer, and two letters from Lord Grenville.

FEBRUARY, 1812. Mr. Firth, of Norwich, published a violent pamphlet or letter to the Bishop, declaiming against the "tendency of his public opinions."

The Bishop's answer, which was written with his accustomed mildness and candour, had such an effect upon Mr. Firth, that, upon perusing it, he burst into tears of regret and remorse, for having made use of such violent language in his epistle: he quickly availed himself of the Bishop's invitation, and waited upon him at Norwich; when he expressed the admiration and esteem, with which his character and conduct had inspired him, in the warmest manner, and sincerely apologised for the language he had used in his letter; confessing that had he been as much acquainted with

his character as he now was, a far different letter would have been written, had it been written at all.

The following is the letter from the Bishop to Mr. Firth, in answer to the one published by him :—

Dear Sir,

Accept my sincere thanks for your able and elaborate letter respecting “the tendency of my public opinions,” upon those two important topics which for some time past have engaged the attention of so many persons in this kingdom. The various duties of a very laborious diocese do not leave me much leisure to enter as fully as they deserve, into the *facts* which you have brought forward, or into the conclusion which you have deduced from these facts ; but as every thing which comes from a man of your character and talents carries with it a considerable degree of weight, I cannot allow myself to be totally silent.

For the purity of your motives in addressing me, I give you full credit ; and I may fairly claim the same credit for myself. We have also both of us taken pains to investigate the nature and the extent of the Catholic claims, and the effects

which, if granted, they will probably have upon our excellent ecclesiastical establishment : if the result of our inquiries be different, (as it undoubtedly is,) however I may regret this circumstance, I do not feel that there is any room for self-reproach, because I have, to the best of my very limited abilities, formed a dispassionate judgment upon this great question. And I do most solemnly assure you, that I have been warped by no prejudice in forming my judgment, nor have I, as you seem to intimate, been seduced by vanity to court popular applause : on the contrary, I can with truth declare, *Populares istos semper contempsi*, though the approbation of wise and good men (of which I have had my share) appears to me the best reward, which, on this side of the grave, an honest man can possibly receive ; and such approbation I have always desired. But my principles will, in your opinion, prove the destruction of the established church ; if I thought so, I would give them up this moment. I am sincerely devoted to—I cordially love this church ; I love religion, however, still more. I admire the temple, but I value far more highly those Christian graces of meekness, moderation, charity, and forbearance, which are the brightest ornaments and the only permanent support of every church, whether Catholic or Protestant. The Test and

Corporation Acts, though expedient, and perhaps necessary at the time they passed, yet does it follow that they are so now? Indeed, at all times they are feeble ramparts, compared with the general affection of subjects; and I think you will agree with me, that neither church nor state would be endangered, if by some little modification of the oath of allegiance and supremacy we could induce conscientious Catholics to take it. Union of heart among the governed is the firmest bulwark of all governments; and this can only be procured by conciliation. Let us judge of others by ourselves. For my own part, I confess that were I either a Catholic or a Protestant Dissenter, I should think it "hard measure" to be excluded from *civil privileges on account of speculative opinions in religion*, when I give to the government, under which I live, such a security for my conduct as a subject, as that government itself prescribes; and this the Catholics do. Upon this plain and simple principle, I am what you assert me to be—a friend to "universal toleration;" which, in my judgment, is so far from being calculated to "pull down the establishment," that it would most essentially strengthen it. You do me (unintentionally, I am persuaded) great injustice, when you say that I "exult in the idea of bequeathing to my *successors*, as a comfortable *legacy*, the inconveniences which

must be the ultimate result of concession to the Catholics:" if I had the pleasure of being better known to you, such an idea would never, I trust, have occurred to you. I can truly say, in the words of an author with whom you are well acquainted, "*Mihi non minori curæ est, qualis respublica post mortem meam futura sit, quàm qualis sit hodie.*" I will make only one observation more. Your historical extracts are, I have no doubt, very accurate; but surely if our researches into past ages serve only to keep alive those rancorous animosities, which it would be far better for the interest of religion and for the welfare of society to bury in eternal oblivion, it were wiser to shut up our books, or even to throw them at once into the fire. Why visit the sins of the fathers upon the children, especially when there is not in the latter the smallest family likeness? would you and I like to be responsible for the Protestant intolerance of John Calvin or of John Knox? It is time to learn wisdom from the folly of those who have gone before us, and mildness from their asperity. It is time to forgive one another, and to recollect, that the time approaches, when we shall all stand in need of forgiveness from Him who says, "Judge not, and ye shall not be judged." Adieu! I never yet thought the worse of any man on account of his differing from me in religious

opinions, provided that in defending what he considers as the doctrines of Christianity, he does not, as is too frequently the case, lose sight of the *temper* of a Christian; and this cannot justly be imputed to you. I shall therefore be happy, when I return to Norwich, to cultivate your acquaintance, and to assure you in person that I am

Sincerely yours, &c.

H. NORWICH.

London, Feb. 22nd, 1813.

The same year, 1812, that Mr. Firth wrote the letter noticed in February, 1813, we find the following communications from Lord Grenville, dated June 25th and December 11th, 1812.

Dropmore, June 25th, 1812.

My dear Lord,

I cannot sufficiently thank you for your hospitality and kindness to my friend Mr. Goddard, who speaks of them in the strongest terms. For his ordination I do not thank you, because I am sure you would not have laid hands upon him if you had not judged him such as I am confident he is.

You will see that we have at last persuaded the House of Commons to begin on that great work of

conciliating Ireland. The same question comes on in the House of Lords next Wednesday; that is the day fixed by Lord Wellesley, and I have entreated him not to postpone it. If you can attend, I know you will gladly continue to this great cause, now triumphant, the same aid which you so generously gave to it in its greatest depression: but should you be prevented from coming, I trust you will allow me earnestly to request you to send a proxy, as we have the greatest expectations of success.

Believe me ever, my dear Lord,

With the most sincere regard,

Most truly and faithfully yours, &c.

GRENVILLE.

December 11th, 1812, the Bishop received the following letter from Lord Grenville; and there can be but one opinion among candid men on the impropriety of conduct of those who made a religious association a vehicle for resenting political differences, or the indelicacy of the proceeding altogether, of which Lord Grenville so justly complained.

Dropmore, Dec. 11th, 1812.

My dear Lord,

You are officially, as well as individually, a member of the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, and you will, I believe, have received from the secretary directly, what I have got only by accident, the notice of a meeting for passing a most violent and intemperate resolution on the Catholic question. The circumstance which passed a few years ago, on an occasion somewhat similar, makes it impossible for me to be silent on this subject now. I take the liberty of enclosing to you a copy of what I have now written to Dr. Gaskin, with whom I had thought my correspondence had been long since closed. What course you may think it proper to pursue on this occasion, you are by much the best judge. Your general coincidence of opinion with me on the question itself, I well know and rejoice in; nor is it at all likely that we should differ as to the propriety of disseminating such notions as these, in place of our old practice, and of the profession which we annually make of distributing Bibles, Prayer-Books, and religious tracts.

Believe me ever, my dear Lord,

With the truest regard,

Most faithfully and sincerely yours,

GRENVILLE.

The letter inclosed, and here alluded to, is not to be found among the Bishop's papers ; but the Editor believes it appeared in the newspapers of the day. The Bishop did not withdraw his name from the Society, it seems, although he disapproved of a measure got up by a few party-spirited individuals of the day.

CHAPTER VIII.

More incidents of 1812, and up to March 22nd, 1813.

EARLY in July, 1812, the Bishop and his wife set out on a journey to Ireland, accompanied by their three daughters and youngest son, named Coote, who was to be left at Portsmouth to join his ship, being destined for the navy. Twenty-three years had elapsed since Mrs. Bathurst had visited her native country: the Bishop had long contemplated indulging her with this Irish excursion, and at length the time was arrived. The party left Norwich on the 15th of July, and, after passing a few days in London, proceeded to Portsmouth, where they left Coote; from thence to Sir Eyre Coote's, at West Park, where they spent some days, and then proceeded on their journey to Bangor, where they arrived on the 5th of August; and, after crossing the ferry, arrived at Holyhead, and embarked on board the Spencer packet, and landed at Dunleary near Dublin, after a tolerable

passage of twenty-one hours : on Friday the 7th of August they arrived at Leopards-town, the seat of Mrs. Bathurst's eldest brother, Lord Castle Coote. During the Bishop's visit at Leopards-town, the Catholics of Ireland presented an address to him, of which the following is an extended account taken from the 'Morning Chronicle.'

“ The editor of this paper having uniformly advocated the cause of civil and religious liberty, not only from a consciousness of its being founded on the basis of immutable justice, but from a conviction that the blessings and physical strength of a community are always in proportion to the liberality and unity of the national mind, he is persuaded he cannot do his country a greater service, than by presenting his readers with the following Address to the Bishop of Norwich, and the Reverend Prelate's answer to that Address. The first of these documents breathes the purest spirit of gratitude to their Protestant advocate, and consequently *in him* to all his fellow Christians who are friends to Catholic emancipation. The latter is calculated to make proselytes of every opponent to the measure ; to root up the remaining seeds of persecution in the human breast, which are ready to spring up on every occasion ; to show the reasonableness of the Ca-

tholic claims upon the principles of the Gospel, and to promote that enlargement of mind and extended philanthropy to sects of all persuasions, which the Christian religion never fails to effect where its doctrines and precepts are clearly understood. The Address was presented to the reverend champion of the Catholic claims, on the 14th of August, at the house of Mr. Gore, St. Stephen's Green, Dublin, by the Earl of Fingal, accompanied by all the members of the Catholic Board then resident in that city. The procession was very splendid.

ADDRESS.

TO THE RIGHT REVEREND HENRY LORD BISHOP
OF NORWICH, &c.

“ My Lord,

“ We wait upon your Lordship, a deputation from the Board of Irish Catholics, with an address of congratulation on your arrival in this kingdom, and we beg to assure you, that we never discharged a duty more grateful to our hearts or more sanctioned by our judgments. Strong feeling is our country's characteristic, and on no occasion has it been more powerfully excited. To receive amongst us a personage in every respect distinguished by birth, learning,

station, and virtue,—the genuine disciple of the mild principles of the Gospel, the irresistible supporter of universal philanthropy, the eloquent vindicator of religious liberty and sound Christianity, the Catholic advocate in the Protestant Prelate,—is to us an event almost as new as it is auspicious, as interesting as original. Your Lordship comes no stranger to visit us ; your presence is hailed by the according voice of a nation, by the rapturous greetings of millions,—an unexampled and a glorious welcome.

“ Our gratitude, my Lord, is no sudden effusion, no evanescent sentiment ; it is built on the solid foundation of high benefit conferred and invaluable service, and is heartfelt and inextinguishable.

“ Deeply as our cause is indebted to the unrivalled talents of unconquerable perseverance of a host of powerful and distinguished advocates ; much as it may owe to the state of the times, the convulsions of the world, and the crisis we are placed in ; advanced as it has doubtless been by the growing liberality and illumination of the age, still we forcibly feel that prejudice and intolerance never encountered an enemy more formidable than in the person of your Lordship. Your voice, my Lord, was the knell of bigotry : the prejudices of ages shrunk before it, and fana-

ticism stood silent and appalled ! There is a melancholy pleasure in dwelling on the imaginary existence of such characters as your Lordship, invested with rule and governing this kingdom, in times long elapsed. How different the reality from the picture ! Our country the seat of peace, of arts, and of sciences ; its high advantages improved to their full extent of cultivation ; the Irish mind taught to reach its exalted tendency ; feuds and animosities unknown and unthought of ; universal union and unrivalled prosperity. The mind sickens at the contrast, and recoils from the page of reluctant history. Under the auspices of such men as your Lordship, should it please Providence to grant them, what alas ! has not been, we might confidently anticipate. Glorious days might still await us, and this long oppressed and neglected country might yet assume the port and dignity, the rank and character to which, but for the counteracting machinations of man, it was destined by Heaven."

ANSWER OF THE BISHOP OF NORWICH.

" My Lords and Gentlemen,

" If I were called upon to name the proudest day of my life, I should most assuredly fix upon this very day ; because an opportunity is now offered me, for the first time, of declaring

before an assembly of loyal and respectable Irish Catholics, (among whom I have the honour to see two learned and amiable prelates and noblemen, of whose virtues and abilities there is but one opinion,) those sentiments of esteem and veneration which I have for their personal characters, and that devoted attachment to their just cause, which no man in the united kingdom can feel more sincerely or more strongly than I do. Nor, Gentlemen, do I claim any merit with you for making this declaration, because I consider your cause as the cause of civil and religious liberty, neither of which can be said to exist in perfection in any country where thousands of individuals are excluded, on account of their religious opinions, from those offices of honour or emolument,—an equal eligibility to which I have always been taught to consider, and shall never cease to consider, as ranking among the common rights of loyal and dutiful subjects, under whatever denomination of Christians they may come; provided, I mean, that they give to the civil government, under which they live, an adequate security for their conduct as civil subjects. And who, Gentlemen, will presume to say, that you have not done this, who has read the Declaration made by so many honest men, and the oath taken by so many conscientious Christians?

“ It is not, however, my wish on the present occasion to dwell upon the principal subject of your wrongs: indeed, my disposition does not at any time lead me, nor do my professional pursuits qualify me, to discuss minutely topics of a political nature; nor is it necessary. Fortunately for the honour, for the peace, for the prosperity of the united kingdoms, and for the real security both of Church and State, a marked revolution of public opinion has lately taken place; the consequence of which will, I trust, be, that in the course of a few months every clause, every line, every syllable of those penal laws will be repealed, of which with so much reason you complain,—laws which appear to me as unwise, as impolitic, and as uncharitable, as they are unjust and oppressive. But lest I should be thought to deliver my sentiments on this interesting subject with more warmth than becomes a man of my age and of my profession, I will say no more.

“ Allow me only, Gentlemen, to add my heartfelt thanks for the honour you do me by your kind congratulations on my arrival in this country; and permit me to assure you, which I do with great truth, that, if I could want any inducement to persevere in that line of conduct which I have hitherto pursued, the approbation of the Catholics

in Ireland would be one of the most powerful inducements I could possibly have."

Lord Castle Coote, the Bishop's brother-in-law, did not agree with him on the subject of the Catholic question: he did not think proper even to allow them to assemble at his house in St. Stephen's Green to present their Address; they therefore waited upon the Bishop, as has been noticed in the newspaper above referred to, at the house of Joseph Gore, Esq., in St. Stephen's Green. They also invited the Bishop to a magnificent dinner at the Rotunda; at which he could not avoid being present, though reluctantly, great public dinners being always an exertion and annoyance to him. On Monday the 24th of August he left Leopards-town, and proceeded on his way towards Donaghadee, stopping for a day or two at Rostrevor, and also at the Marquis of Downshire's at Hillsborough. To Rostrevor the Bishop was followed by a Catholic Bishop in a shabby gig all the way from Newry, with an address from the Catholics of that place. "A curious circumstance," says Mrs. Thistlethwayte (then Miss Tryphena Bathurst), "I remember "happening at one of the towns where they "stopped: the Bishop of Norwich in paying a "post-boy, who looked more dirty and ragged "than even those poor wretches generally did,

“ gave him somewhat more than was usual upon
“ those occasions : the boy, looking at the money,
“ smiled and cried, ‘ Bless your honour, I don’t
“ care for the money, but you are a good friend to
“ Ireland, and I wish it was night instead of day,
“ that I might spend it in a bonfire for you ! ’ ”

On Sunday the 30th of August he sailed from the harbour of Donaghadee, cheered by the inhabitants who assembled to witness his departure ; and after a passage of three hours arrived at Portpatrick ; from whence he continued his journey to Glasgow, and from thence to Edinburgh, passing through Hamilton and Lanark, near which place he visited the beautiful falls of the Clyde. He spent five days at Edinburgh, where he viewed all that was worth seeing in that magnificent city ; and from Edinburgh proceeded on his journey to Easington, near Durham, where he spent a fortnight with his old and much valued friend, Dr. Prosser ; and on the 22nd of September visited the Bishop of Durham at Auckland for a day : after which he proceeded to Mr. — Hutchinson’s beautiful place at Eggleston ; from whence he went to Mr. Wyvill’s, at Burton, a lovely place, where he spent some days with his old friend, Mr. Wyvill : from Burton the party proceeded on their way to Oxford ; from thence to Cambridge ; and arrived at Norwich on Monday the 5th of

October, after an absence of near three months. Soon after this time the Bishop's only remaining brother, Mr. Robert Bathurst, who had lately returned from India, after a residence of forty years in that country, came to visit him at Norwich, accompanied by his daughter, now married to Mr. Wilkinson, a native of Yorkshire, though resident in India: they remained with him two months; and after a visit of a twelvemonth only in England Mr. R. B. again departed for India, disgusted with all he had seen and experienced in his native land, and declaring that the only happy days he had spent were at Norwich, and the only kindness and warmth of feeling he had met with was from the Bishop, and a cousin, and an old friend of his, the late Sir Thomas Trigge.

The account just now of what passed in Ireland during the Bishop's visit there, when he was so received with honour by the Catholic body, is taken wholly from a manuscript of Mrs. Thistlethwayte; as also from a manuscript of hers is also taken the introductory account of the Bathurst family.

And now, in speaking of this visit to Ireland, shall we transmit this account to posterity with the silence of an annalist, or the freedom of an historian? Are the virtues of an honoured and beloved father not able to sustain a conscientious

difference of opinion in particular points ; and will he not rather honour with his spirit the son that dares to portray him with an impartiality, which piety towards him, and a consciousness of the uncommon excellence of those lineaments which we are sketching embolden him to do, lest he should be thought to be the echo rather than the historian of his life ?

A natural jealousy of power, though blended with some Oxford aristocratical and tory prejudices, and a sort of spirit of opposition not unnatural to those in this world who ride above mankind, and are raised often without any particular merit on their part, always inclined the editor of this memoir to the popular side of the question, or rather to the weakest side, whichever it was ; and when the Whigs were in power under Lord Grenville, (then hotch-potch whiggery,) and appeared to be in full possession of the throne and country, the writer of these pages was as eagerly opposed to them, although the Bishop was favourable to them, as ever he has been their friend since ; for he thought them too high and mighty to be moved, and he felt for the fallen fortunes (fallen to all appearance) of the party of which that nobleman was a distinguished member, who had raised the Bishop of Norwich and his family to their situations and means of bet-

tering themselves, and who appeared never likely again to bask in the sunshine of power, though it turned out differently : and although afterwards, when agreeing with his father on the subject of the Catholic question, his son and biographer began to doubt the propriety of the revolutionary war, and to think that although the war was long since ostensibly against Napoleon, who appeared most powerful, it was after all, in reality, against the liberties and rights of every people who might claim a right of filling a throne afresh, which had been forfeited by treachery and misconduct ; yet did he who penned these pages still harbour a feeling of affection towards the author of his father's worldly situation, and could not easily persuade himself entirely to alienate himself by any outward act as yet from the friend of his fortunes—Lord Bathurst. With these impressions, though convinced that his honoured father had the first claim on his gratitude, respect, imitation, and service ; and therefore having long since determined to take him as his pattern and guide, and to cast away fearlessly all views of ambition, if necessary, whether from one party or the other, and to dedicate himself to mankind and country ; yet he must say, that he always doubted the expediency and propriety of that great act of decisive complexion by which his father accepted the

invitation of the Catholics of Ireland to the public dinner, of which an account has been given, and whereby the Bishop made himself thus (in a manner very obnoxious to the Irish government, of which the Duke of Richmond, the brother-in-law of Lord Bathurst, was the head,) the partisan of those to whose claims the Irish government was opposed. It seemed too much to be throwing down the gauntlet; and yet too the Bishop had already been so clearly the champion thus described, that it may be said the Rubicon was already passed in parliament: and when we recollect that Lord Bathurst had, upon his first intimation of determination to take part in parliament with the Catholics, declared that the exercise of this resolution would hinder him from ever again mentioning him to the King; and when we consider how unequivocally he had, before his elevation to the bench, committed himself (if it may be so said) to Lord Grenville, in a pamphlet, though never published, yet addressed and transmitted to his Lordship on this subject; no act, however public and decisive of opinion in this matter, will appear perhaps either unnatural or unwarrantable.

The following letters, received by the Arch-deacon in the years 1812 and 1813, will con-

siderably display the Bishop's feelings on passing events.

On the death of Mr. Perceval, the following were the Bishop's sentiments as to that crisis. The reflections herein made, as to the incompetency of a clergyman to be a judge of public matters, seems to be not founded in reason ; for some of the greatest French ministers have been cardinals at all events, and the clergy of an established church are intended to lead public opinion, by testing all public acts by the laws of religion and morality.

My dear Henry,

Never since the year 1640 was this country in such a state as it is at present : not being even a minor prophet, I pretend not to foresee how all these strange things will end. The administration (if administration it can be called) will hardly last to the end of the present session of parliament. Lord Bathurst declined, very wisely, the offer of being premier, and Lord Liverpool is as fit to be at the helm in such a storm, as I should be. Lord Wellesley's publications prove him to be totally deficient in judgment, and have injured him in public estimation, especially that part of his letters in which he mentions Mr. Perceval: the vile assassin of the latter was, it is now

clearly proved, entirely unconnected with any individuals or party whatever. Mr. * * * *, who is one of the most selfish intriguers that ever existed, imagines that by taking the cause of the Catholics out of the hands of wiser, better, and more patriotic men, he shall forward his own views; but those who admire his talents as a wit and orator dislike his character, and think him no statesman. The Prince, an intimate friend of his told me yesterday, gets very angry and outrageous at the conduct of his former friends; complains bitterly of them, because they will not desert *their* principles, as he has done. *We Papists* are the peculiar objects of his aversion. Lord * * * *, and the late * Dean of Christ-church, are said to be his favourite advisers: the former is a poor narrow-minded creature, a good lawyer, but without comprehension, or the smallest portion of mental elevation: he deserves the character given of Lord Elgin, by Lord Byron in a poem, parts of which are beautiful:—

Void as the crags around his native coast,
His mind as barren, and his heart as hard.

With respect to my old friend, highly as I think of him, I am convinced that we divines are (as

* Dr. Jackson, then still living. The reflections on Lord
— are not just.

our ablest advocate, Lord Clarendon, says in his account of Laud,) the worst judges of public matters, of all mankind, who can read and write.* Those who have more insight into politics, than I pretend to, seem persuaded that the Regent *must* very soon have recourse to Lord Grey and his party; indeed he has no great objection to this exalted nobleman, but he detests the *Grenvilles*; and the former will not listen to any proposal which is to be accompanied with the exclusion of the latter. Friday evening, May the 22nd, just returned from the House of Lords, all bustle and whispering: Lords Liverpool and his comrades gave in their resignation at the levee: in answer to the address of the Commons, the Prince replied that he would take their sentiments into serious consideration; to-morrow he will probably send for Lord Wellesley or Lord Grey—this letter shall not be sealed till I know which. The sudden death of the poor Bishop of Ely grieved me much; Sparks is likely to succeed him: and Lord Ellenborough's brother (Dr. Law), or the Dean of Windsor, will be the new Bishop.

Saturday, half past four. Nothing settled. Lord Wellesley at this moment with the Prince.

* The sentiment is hardly just.

My dear Henry,

No young damsel just escaped from the restraint of a boarding-school ever felt more joy at her first approach to London, than I did at quitting it. The country is beautiful, and nothing can be more gratifying than the prospect there is of a plentiful hay and corn harvest : my garden is in high order, and my house neat ; but there is not much fruit in the former. Mr. Parr is dead ; I have given the living of Heigham to Mr. Wilkinson, which everybody seems pleased with. The Bishop of Durham has presented my friend Le Mesurier to the rectory of Houghton, near Darlington, the value of which is at least £2500 a year : I am vain enough to think that I have been instrumental in procuring this excellent piece of preferment for him. With respect to the state of public affairs, it is not less melancholy than singular, Lord Wellesley and Mr. Canning being unable to inspire either party with confidence ; the result will probably be, that the Prince must, *nolens volens*, have recourse to Lord Grey ultimately, who is more looked up to than any man in the kingdom : his appointment will probably prove beneficial to me ; but at my age, even a selfish, interested man, intent solely upon Mammon, would not feel much elevated at the

idea of a translation ; though I certainly shall not be sorry to have it in my power to make some further provision for my family, for whom I have hitherto never been able to save much : indeed, I claim some merit from having kept clear of debt ; which, in the same situation, none of my predecessors, for these last fifty years, could contrive to do. Next year there is not a single fine, and the reserved rents are only £1500 a year, not to mention the *visitation*, which is attended with expense and trouble : it will therefore certainly be a very good time to take leave of a diocese, which notwithstanding I shall quit with regret, having experienced so much kindness in it, both from persons of my own profession and from the laity of all parties. Adieu !

Believe me, my dear Henry,
Sincerely and affectionately yours, &c.

H. NORWICH.

Norwich, June 6th, 1812.

P. S. The Prince said that he would rather forfeit his throne than give up his household : Lord Hertford however has very wisely resigned, which will probably smooth the way for Lord Grey ; though an attempt will probably be made to patch up a ministry out of the last administration.

In another letter, he added, after some other matters, expressing his regret that the ministerial arrangements had not been to his satisfaction :—

* * * * * On political topics I hardly know what to say to you ; at my age, it is of very little consequence to me personally who is uppermost, but I truly feel patriotism enough to assert, that, “*mihi non minori curæ est, qualis res—publica post mortem meam futura sit, quàm qualis sit hodie.*” I could wish that the cause of the Catholics were in the hands of Lord Fitzwilliam, Lord Grey, or Lord Grenville, because I do not like the language entirely either of Mr. Canning or Lord Wellesley ; being unable to understand, what security the most prudent and even scrupulous statesman can justly require from the Catholics, beyond their repeated declarations, the very strong oath which they willingly take, and the *general* tenor of their conduct for more than a century, under trials which would have wearied out the patience of most other men.

If these be motives weak, break off betimes,
And let short-sighted bigotry range on.

Adieu ! believe me,

Yours most affectionately,

H. NORWICH.

Norwich, June 20th, 1812.

In another letter is found the following expression again of opinion in public affairs :—

* * * * * Having taken up my opinion upon the subject of the Catholic question not without much mature consideration, it is very unlikely that I should change it; and I trust that my zeal in this great cause will never make me indifferent to (I verily believe) the purest ecclesiastical establishment in the Christian world: to say that there is nothing in our Articles, our Homilies, or our Liturgy, that is capable of amendment, would be to forget that they are human compositions: but the various attempts which have been made to revise and correct them, have been productive of so many inconveniences, and have excited so unchristian a spirit, that I should pause before I gave my vote in favour of any measure of this kind; for it ought never to be forgotten, that it is one thing to exact from members of *our own Church* a security for *their* religious sentiments, before we bestow upon them the emoluments and honours of the Church; and another to demand from Christians of a different denomination a subscription to dogmas of a speculative nature, as a qualification for civil offices, when they are ready to give every practicable proof of the loyalty of their civil conduct. In short, if we thought and talked *less* of some few

tenets in which we disagree, and more of the heavenly *precepts* in which there is no room for disagreement, it would be far better for public and private happiness. Our opponents seem to be apprehensive of danger from the admission of Catholics to situations of public trust; but with a Protestant king and a Protestant parliament, what cause can there possibly be for fear? Twenty members in each house of parliament, were they as mischievous as the most uncharitable of the last year's petitioners asserted them to be, can do us no harm, and would in all likelihood, instead of converting *us*, become converts themselves. Love to all. I am almost blind with writing.

Yours most affectionately,
H. NORWICH.

On the birth of the Archdeacon's second girl, he received the following epistle:—

My dear Henry,

I congratulate you very cordially on the birth of a daughter;—may she prove hereafter as amiable as her mother! This busy, bustling scene makes me now and then sigh for the quiet repose of North Creak. In Germany, every thing looks well. The Russians will soon be at Dresden.

On Saturday last the Regent proposed in Council, that the German troops should be withdrawn from Portugal and Spain, and sent, under the Duke of Cambridge, to Hanover; but the majority of the Council would not accede to the proposal: this has made him out of humour. Lord Castle-reagh, it is said, will resign, and Lord Harrowby; some change will certainly take place. Abroad the prospect is uncommonly promising. Providence seems to have determined to "bow the proud neck of the king of Assyria;" but at home his gracious dispensation will, I fear, be rendered unavailing in a great measure, by the conduct of some branches of the * * * *. The late unblushing publications give universal dissatisfaction: if the Prince conceive, that the object* of his revenge has suffered materially in the opinion of the public, or that his own conduct is thought less inexcusable by such shameless statements, he is greatly mistaken. Pity for a young princess, unprotected by her husband, surrounded by spies, accustomed to manners very different from those of the country she inhabits, and naturally lively and unsuspecting,—seems to be one prevailing sentiment. I am glad to tell you that she

* The Princess of Wales. This alludes to what was called the "delicate investigation."

has an unconquerable mind : she said lately to a friend of mine, "Thank God, I know not what fear is." I am going to the house : Lord Grey presents the petition of the English Catholics this afternoon : if our friends can but agree as to the *mode* of managing this important business, and do not divide upon the subject of the *extent* of the Catholic claims, we shall succeed ; but I am very far from believing that one or other of these circumstances will not occur. Nothing can be more wise and conciliatory than Mr. Grattan has invariably been. Adieu. Believe me, with great truth,

Your affectionate father,

H. NORWICH.

London, March 22nd, 1813.

The next letter is on the loss of the Catholic bill in 1813 :—

My dear Henry,

Between letters, my charge, and other matters, preparatory to visitation and confirmation, I have of late been almost bewildered ; but the loss of the Catholic question in the House of Commons harasses me more than all my business put together. When will prejudice, and narrow ideas of toleration, cease to disgrace us ? When

will the *supposed* interest of a particular establishment of Christianity be less dear to us, than the mild, benevolent, and comprehensive doctrine of that religion, for the more effectual *propagation* of which *all establishments* are formed, and are principally valuable, in proportion as they contribute to this great end ? but I will not pester you with my reflections on the sad triumph of bigotry over sound policy and genuine charity. * *

Newmarket, May 27th, 1813.

CHAPTER IX.

1813 continued.

A. D. 1813. About this period the Bishop experienced one of those many trials, to which, in some shape or other, a parent with a large family is necessarily exposed : his youngest son, (and the youngest of a family is generally the pet,) and for whom he cherished the warmest affection, came home from the Continent, where he had been for his education, having left the navy, for which he was originally intended, in consequence of ill health : he evinced on his journey through the Netherlands the most alarming symptoms of derangement. He recognised indeed his father, and burst into tears of affection : it appeared however that his senses, like the sun in April, were one minute under a dark cloud—at another bright—and alas ! finally settled into idiotcy, occasionally interrupted by flashes of disturbed intellect ;—whether arising from a fall, when on board ship, on his

head, and a contusion in his head, which was suspected from a lump at the back of it, or from any internal and natural disorganization of the brain, it is hard to say. When his uncle, the late Sir Eyre Coote, incurred the penalty of disgrace on the score of conduct, certainly for which insanity could be the only excuse, this and other matters of less importance, and very improper in the editor's opinion to be raked up in families, and only indicative of violence of temper or irregular imagination, (by no means uncommon defects,) were all brought up in evidence, to prove that in the Coote family there was a tendency to madness. Sorry is the writer of this memoir to say, that the conduct of neither of his mother's brothers to their invaluable sister was such as to make her family feel much interest about them altogether; but it is due to those connected with them to say, that there does not appear to be the least foundation for such a supposition, as that of any family tendency to madness; for it is ridiculous to say, that in a large family, where the blood is continually corrected or allayed by intermarriages, that a general tendency can exist, so as to make it probable that an individual is mad, who may be accused of criminal propensities to which men have been unhappily subject, who have suffered punishment without such excuse

having been dreamt of, merely because some of the family may have been whimsical in their habits or violent in their tempers. The unfortunate person giving rise to these remarks is since dead. Nothing upon this trying occasion of his son's dereliction of mind could exceed the kindness of the Bishop: every means which medicine could employ to cure, or that affection could invent, to mitigate the distress of this hopeless malady in the sufferer, was and has been used. It is one of those visitations which Heaven inflicts, and must be submitted to, although one cannot help thinking that a close continual and rigid discipline of the mind from early life, and a moderated application to works of imagination, whether poetry, novel, or romance, and a strict cultivation of the judgment, will be sufficient to counteract madness, where it is likely to arise merely from a sensibility by nature morbid, or a temper naturally irritable; and it is certain, that from the Bishop's wife, who was a Coote, (for the Bathurst blood is out of the question on the subject,) nothing beyond an occasional morbid sensibility, and a nervous irritability, could possibly be inherited: and these qualities were so blended and tempered with the best principles, and the warmest heart, and the most affectionate attachment to the duties of domestic life, that if

they afforded trials sometimes to the well-regulated temper of her amiable husband, who indeed strewed her path with flowers, yet never for a moment did they abate that cordial esteem, respect, and attachment of heart, between those who were lovely in their lives, and in death were not divided—"Vivitur non in perfectis planeque sapientibus." Perfection is not the lot of mortals. They may have a strong tincture of every virtue, and yet they must be dashed with mortality. The virtues of the Bishop's wife, take her all in all, were indeed worthy of her partner, and have, we trust in humility, and yet in confidence, sainted her for ever in heaven.

About this time, the question of the Bible and Missionary Societies was warmly agitated by the Rev. Mr. Forby on one side, against the principle of the said societies; and by the Rev. G. Glover, since Archdeacon of Sudbury, on the other, in favour thereof. The conduct of the Bishop of Norwich, in forming these societies, was canvassed with ability on both sides. The whole real merit of the question seems, after all, to be, whether a member of the established church cannot by concentrating his efforts in one point, viz. that of promoting the spirit and diffusion of the Gospel in the manner most congenial to the established church, do more good than by patronising, or

seeming to patronise, a persuasion that every man is a sufficient judge, with the ordinary means of judging within his power, of the great truths of the Gospel. If the latter be true, it certainly leaves a rich and powerful established church, with little more to recommend it as to religious merits, than the comfortable provision which it affords for men of learning and distinguished piety, as rewards from the state, which by such means takes religion under its special protection; and certainly leaves the establishment open to the question, whether on these general grounds the pale of the Church might not be more widely thrown open; and whether this advantage, as a support by patronage to the state, and the existing order of things, be not somewhat more than is necessary to religion, so far as its connexion with high ecclesiastical situations and great emoluments is concerned. "No bishop, no king," was a favourite maxim with King George III.; by which he meant, no doubt, that monarchy could hardly stand against popular influence, except backed by the ecclesiastical establishment.

Into these topics, however, it is not necessary here to enter; although it must be remarked, that while superior education gives a superior right, by superior qualification, of addressing mankind on the most important subjects, and so long as an

aristocracy of learning and accomplishments is considered necessary to human society, and as having a just claim therein to take a lead, so long will the church establishment, coupled with all its preliminary institutions, be worthy of the protection and care of the state; and whensoever ignorance, or even self-presumed accomplishments, independent of a fixed and difficult course of study and application, shall be allowed to be on a level with a classical, a learned, and a scientific education, from that period the very foundations of monarchy, birth, and hereditary advantages derived from a father's virtue, industry, or good fortune, must all be broken up,—and posthumous fame, and our children's honour and advantage, and all that next to religion has acted as a stimulus to virtue and exertion here, must therewith languish and expire.

The writer of these pages was, as long as he could conveniently subscribe, a member of and subscriber to both the Bible and Missionary Societies, upon the general principle of bringing together and conciliating to each other all denominations of Christians, and wearing out, as much as possible, that dislike which so long seems in history to have subsisted between churchman and dissenter; at the same time it must be conceded, that if a certain set of institutions civil,

political, and religious, are thought worthy of preference and preservation, that the national mind, and especially the mind of the upper ranks of society, which so much influences others, must be trained up in accordance and with peculiar predilection for them, if they are to be long preserved. Often do the undue influences of circumstances, which yet ought to be allowed some influence, disgust a man attentive to all the political bearings of established institutions upon truth and justice themselves. But when the fit of indignation is past, we cannot but ask soberly, "Must we not bear in all human things with much obstinate evil? Must we not bear it in individuals? And can any human arrangements be free from such alloy?—And the deliberate result at last, is it not this?

"Neither court change, nor fear it; neither
"despise the wisdom of the past, nor the wisdom
"of the present time; but never lose sight of the
"principles of nature,—of which principles the
"first in society is the right of mind to rule over
"matter; and the right of higher mind to rule
"over that which is lower, inferior, less cultivated, and having fewer opportunities of thoughtful application to the most important subjects."

And it appears that the divisions of the Christian world, under an establishment like

ours, might be in a great measure healed, if the party on the church establishment side would modify some of their terms of union with the Church, and especially if they could cheapen in some way the plan of a university education, so as to admit a larger proportion of the sons of men in a lower rank of life ; and if they were to encourage *extempore* essays, at speaking, on religious subjects, in a familiar though chaste language ; and if those who dissent from the Church would admit that knowledge and education are essential mental qualifications to a Gospel minister, and would cordially unite in some rational and liberal legislation scheme to insure the operation of this principle.

For the extreme toleration and tenderness with which the Bishop of Norwich treated the opinions of all sects both religious and political, he was peculiarly remarkable ; but to bigotry or intolerance in any individual or party, he was a decided antagonist : and even though he treated bigots and fanatics with tenderness and respect individually, and on any occasion when a complaint was brought against a clergyman for over-heated zeal, he would, if he could not reconcile the parish and minister, remove the minister ; if a curate, to some equally good curacy, with a gentle admonition for the future : yet, being untinged with

fanaticism as he was incapable of bigotry, he would smile, where he could, at the extravagances of some well-meaning men, who are for what they call "preaching the Gospel;" which, as they say, their brother clergymen do not preach, though equally good scholars and good men as themselves: and no recital amused him more than that of an interview which he had with an old woman and a parish priest, of whom the old lady complained that he preached uncharitable doctrine; to which the clergyman replied, "That he gave his parishioners the true milk of the Gospel:" "Yes," said the old lady, "and desperate sour milk too."

The zeal which those who are called the evangelical clergy display was always a subject both for allowance and even of approbation with their diocesan of Norwich; and he used to reply, when their general proceedings were objected to on the score of "zeal without knowledge," that so far as their zeal was concerned, let us add knowledge to it, and—

*Mutemus clypeos, Danaûmque insignia nobis
Aptemus.*

But he always disapproved of those who pretended that they alone preach the Gospel, and, by separating from the society of other clergy, or

stigmatising their preaching or doctrine, formed, as some do, a sect more really injurious to the interests of the Church than the most openly declared dissenters.

The Charge which the Bishop delivered this year, 1813, to the clergy at his septennial visitation, was not so well received as either of his other Charges. It evinced some vexation of spirit, apparently at the manner in which his opinions and conduct had been received among his profession, and was, in vindication of himself, more egotistical than was his general fashion ; and it must be owned that there appeared to him something in his manner and feelings at the time, that was not quite in unison with his inward and usual complacency. In this Charge he both vindicated his principles and public conduct as to civil and religious liberty generally, and especially as to the claims of the Roman Catholics ; and expressed his determination and rightful privilege to assert and maintain them ;—a subject perhaps which might have been, without disadvantage, postponed for the introduction of matter more particular, and immediately applicable to his episcopal cares : and it was his eldest clerical son's wish that some such opportunity should have been embraced for the purpose of attaining the co-operation of the clergy in a general representation to parliament

of the expediency and necessity of some fresh law to regulate dilapidations of parsonage-houses and chancels, and to secure a fund for the same from each benefice, applicable, under proper restrictions and regulations, effectual for the purpose; and the writer of this memoir actually drew up a sketch of some provisions, which he thought might, if enacted into law, at once secure the repairs and final building of a parsonage-house, for the use of every benefice in England, and indirectly also lay the foundation for applying a more perfect and better understood system of ecclesiastical discipline than any which now exists; for the power vested in a bishop or archdeacon is too discretionary at present for effect, and they rarely like to exercise it with that decision which is sometimes necessary, inasmuch as a judge and jury, and punishers, and (as it must be in some cases) accuser also, are characters which are not pleasantly concentrated in one. If the bishop and archdeacons were to hold courts once a year, and the former were to summon the archdeacons and perhaps the dean and chapter, and the latter the rural deans to assist them, and enforce the decision of a court so constituted, the best effects might result from such an institution properly modified and suited to all considerations.

But to these points the Bishop's eldest son

afterwards, when Archdeacon, never could urge his father's attention sufficiently to induce him to take any steps toward a remedy. To the worthy and amiable Dr. Manners Sutton, Archbishop of Canterbury, he ventured also to submit his ideas on the subject of dilapidations and parsonage-houses : his Grace assured him of his cordial wish to promote the object, but neither did his Grace take any steps towards it ; and yet he must candidly confess, that to a church officer these points are of real value, as well as others of a general and polemic nature.

In 1813 a portion, though small in number, of the clergy, expressed their difference in opinion from the clergy in general who petitioned against the Catholics ; and this little band addressed the Bishop in very handsome terms. The Reverend Mr. Ford, then of Ipswich, took a leading part on this occasion. The following was the Bishop's reply, and to him the following letter was addressed :—

Sir,

Accept yourself, and present to our brethren, my grateful acknowledgments for the favourable opinion which they are so good as to entertain of my character and conduct : they certainly do me only justice, in thinking that I am

not less cordially attached to the established church than those whose mistaken zeal prompts them, upon all occasions, to cry out, "The temple of the Lord, the temple of the Lord are we!" and who, on that ground, would exclude Christians of other denominations from those civil advantages, which, as it appears to me, all are equally entitled to, who give to the government under which they live an adequate security for their conduct as subjects.

I am, &c. &c.

H. NORWICH.

London,
February 25th, 1813.

In 1814 the Bishop appointed his eldest son Archdeacon of Norwich, upon the elevation of the Rev. Mr. Yonge to the chancellorship of the diocese. The following year the Archdeacon gave his Charge, which is in the Appendix, and which was much approved by the clergy and his father.

CHAPTER X.

Other interesting letters to end of year 1818—also a Latin inscription for an image of Napoleon when at St. Helena.

AFTER the victory of Waterloo, and the entry of the British troops into Paris, a general thanksgiving was ordered ; in compliance with which a sermon was appointed to be preached on the thanksgiving-day at the cathedral church at Norwich, as in other places. The Bishop of Norwich had the appointment of the preacher, and wrote to his son, the Archdeacon, upon the occasion, to nominate him. He returned for answer, that since the last year, 1814, when Napoleon was dethroned, it had struck him forcibly that the object of the British government was to root out the principle of resistance to all government, however oppressive ; not to root out military despotism in France, so much as to make established authority unassailable in its exercise, be it ever so much at variance with the true principles

of government,—namely, the fairly collected sentiments and fairly ascertained advantage of the people ; that the hostility to Napoleon had been clearly proved, to his mind, not an hostility to him as a military despot and tyrant, or even as a troublesome neighbour, but merely because he had seated himself on the throne of legitimate kings,—by which word “legitimate” he supposed to be meant kings born in royal wedlock ; that other sovereigns looked upon him as a scarecrow to themselves while on the throne, and as a standing proof to mankind that bad government might be put aside, and kings deposed, when they had shown themselves faithless and unworthy of the people’s trust ; that though the hazard of revolution is always great, and the evidence of necessity very questionable, except in very extreme cases, yet that for monarchs to form, as they seemed to him to be forming, a league offensive and defensive against their people, by introducing a precedent for dictating a government to another nation, as the restoration of the dynasty of the Bourbons was now dictated to France, was revolting against manly feeling, and every sense of man’s dignity as a free agent in society ; that national honour was insulted, irretrievable injury and insult at once committed, and peace built upon foundations of revenge and oppression ; that these sentiments

he could not restrain himself (though perhaps the only man in England who would thus speak out) from expressing.

The Bishop replied, that he requested still that the Archdeacon would undertake the office of preaching on the day mentioned, and that (he was pleased to add) he had no doubt that he could do himself credit. The Archdeacon accordingly consented ; and having first communicated with his friend Archdeacon Glover, who at that time did not so fully, as since, enter into his views of the injustice of the restoration of the Bourbons, but who gave the most flattering testimony to the sentiments, &c. of his sermon, boldly preached what he felt and thought on this important occasion ; and thinking that in such a case it is always the best way to publish what is really said, he submitted the sermon to the Bishop, with a request that he would allow him to publish it ; and the Bishop was pleased in answer to say, that the “ doctrines contained in it were incontrovertible, and the sentiments just and elevated,” and gave his permission. His son then published it, and it is in the Appendix.

The following inscription, for the statue of Napoleon, after his banishment to St. Helena, shows the Bishop's feelings to have corresponded with the sentiments of his son as to the treatment of

Napoleon the Great: it was written by the Bishop himself for a marble image, or statue, in Mr. Coke's possession.

Admetus, Molossorum rex, Themistoclem, ingrata patria profugum, benignè accepit, et discedere quò vellet permisit.

Britanniarum Rex, Napoleonem, virum, temporum nostrorum faciliè principem, incertos belli eventus expertum, et in Angliam, quasi ad aram, confugientem, (priscâ gentis fide heu! nequicquam confisum!) in remotam atque admodum horridam relegavit insulam; ubi contumeliis indignè vexatus, animi dolore, magis quam morbo corporis, confectus, periit.

*Erubescite, Britanni, et lugete,
quotquot hancce statuam contemplantini!*

The following letter is dated from West Park, where the Bishop was on a visit to his wife's brother, the late Sir Eyre Coote, whom he never deserted in the affliction and disgrace which attended in his latter days upon this distinguished officer:—

My dear Henry,

Many thanks for your kind letter, which should not have remained so long unanswered, had I received it sooner; but it reached me only yesterday at this place. * * * * * A long journey, at this season of the year, (to say no-

thing of the expense,) is not to a young gentleman of my age an excursion of pleasure; you will however be glad to hear that Tryphena and myself have hitherto met with no accident: at Cambridge I passed a few hours between the Dean of Norwich and Dr. Procter: at Oxford my stay was so short, that I could see no one but William Shepard, who asked much after you: at Stratton I found my oldest friend Daubeney in a wretched state: at Salperton I had the heartfelt satisfaction of diffusing a ray of sunshine over the dark habitations of my poor parishioners, by ordering a distribution of money, clothes, fuel, and blankets, to be made among the most needy, according to their respective wants: at Bath I saw my three sisters, all of whom are much better than people of the same age usually are: my visit here is not likely to be very agreeable, but acts of benevolence are never without their full reward: that amiable girl, Catharine, will hardly outlive the winter; her case is hopeless. Sir Eyre is now and then much dejected: I endeavour to keep up his spirits, but he wants that consciousness of rectitude, which can alone support us under severe trials, because nothing else is ever able to give us

The soul's calm sunshine, and the heartfelt joy,

arising from looking back upon our past lives without any great degree of self-reproach, and from being permitted to look forward with humble hope : to the latter consolation, however, he has a fair claim, for no one, I believe, can be more penitent ; he may therefore securely appeal from man's judgment, to that tribunal where justice is tempered with mercy, and where the all-atoning merit of a crucified Redeemer will compensate for the imperfections and offences of such creatures as we are.

These reflections gild the evening of my own life, and will, I trust, have the same effect upon his, notwithstanding the present sorrows which he feels.

With respect to Robert's match, you do me only justice in thinking that I prefer the happiness of my children to every other consideration whatsoever ; and I am also persuaded, that the rational turn of his mind, and his love of retirement and study, will supply him with a constant source of innocent delight, and make him overlook or disregard the many little inconveniences to which a very limited income is unavoidably subject.

Are you to have a petition from Norfolk ? The Regent should, I think, be taught to know, that public opinion is decidedly against that lavish

expenditure, and that most unconstitutional military establishment, which he in so masked a manner countenances.

Remember me very kindly to dear Fanny. The house at Norwich will, I hope, prove comfortable to her : Green will tell you where the wine is ; pray make her drink a full glass of Madeira every day, and keep the brats as quiet as you can. Adieu !

Believe me your affectionate father
and sincere friend,
H. NORWICH.

West Park, Dec. 28th, 1816.

P.S. I shall be in London on Tuesday the 7th.

Mem. The Bishop's wish for a county petition was gratified.

The following letter refers in the beginning to an interview which the Bishop had with the Prince Regent, on the subject of getting Sir Eyre Coote restored, if possible, to his rank and honours ; on which occasion the Prince received him in his dressing-room with the greatest kindness, helped him to a chair, and said, " Come, Bishop, let us talk this matter over in a friendly way." The Duke of York, on whom also the kind-hearted Bishop boldly waited, seemed

flushed and embarrassed, though good-natured. Nothing could be done, but the Bishop had done his part.

My dear Henry,

It was my intention to have passed a day with you, and another with our invaluable friend, before I left Norfolk for the winter; but my ordination business and diocese concerns will unavoidably occupy every hour of my time till *Tuesday* the 17th; and on *Thursday* the 19th I am obliged to be in London, to meet a gentleman for the purpose of arranging matters respecting the delicate commission which I have to execute for your uncle, — a commission which I am thoroughly persuaded will be ineffectual: but friendship calls for *actions*, not *opinions*; and Sir Eyre has been lately so kind, that I feel it a duty to do what he wishes, however unpleasant, or however, in my own judgment, useless. Lord Castle Coote refuses to co-operate with me, which is exactly what I expected; because, where no interest of his own is at stake, he is the last man in the world who will either incur any expense or be at any trouble: “Peace to all such, if such men can have peace.”

Charles Bathurst is by no means satisfied with

the reasons assigned by Charles Prowett for the rejection of the offer which he made him ; and, in truth, nothing ever was so injudicious, to say the least of it, as the conduct of the latter : but enthusiasts, however well meaning, are rarely wise, and still more rarely diffident of their own understandings. Poor John speaks of his brother's decision with great tenderness and moderation. Have you seen five Sermons published by the Rev. William Sharpe, Chaplain of Trinity College, Cambridge :—‘ Upon Original Sin ;’ ‘ Regeneration ;’ ‘ Justification by Faith ;’ and ‘ Perseverance ?’ Those of our brethren, who come under the description of *evangelical*, will do well to read them attentively : they are written in a plain intelligible manner, with great knowledge of the subjects discussed, and are free from that *odium theologicum*, which in general disgraces polemical publications : they are in opposition to some discourses preached by Mr. Simeon, whose disciples increase in every part of the kingdom ; more perhaps than might be wished, though I am not one of those who blame them indiscriminately, being convinced that their zeal and piety, when under due regulation, are productive of very great good : it cannot however be denied, that some of them seem to consider discretion as

a mark of the beast. Adieu! Kind love to Fanny; not forgetting her sister and the children.

Believe me
Your affectionate father and friend,
H. NORWICH.

Norwich, Nov. 4th, 1817.

P. S. Will you be so good as to tell Mr. Coke how I am circumstanced?

The next letter relates to an objection which the Archdeacon made at a county meeting, January 19th, 1818, to an address excluding the Princess of Wales, while addressing the royal family on the death of the Princess Charlotte:—

My dear Henry,

Many thanks for your letter: you “have fought a good fight,” and under very unfavourable circumstances. I wish you had been better supported; but, after all,

Better stand up, assured by conscious pride
Alone, than err with millions on your side.

It will, I think, be more advisable to let the attack upon the Sheriff fall to the ground, though he was decidedly wrong; and, as you justly

observe, there is an end of all public county meetings, if such conduct be legal : but he is a respectable worthy young man, though not perhaps so well informed as he ought to be.

We are reading in the evenings, with great delight, Bishop Watson's Life; never was a publication so run down by tories, placemen, courtiers, "et id genus omne:" it is high treason to speak in favour of it. There is certainly too large a portion of vanity and self-sufficiency diffused over almost every page, and perhaps too much soreness; but the undeviating probity of his character, his mental independence, his very great abilities, and his brilliant eloquence, amply atone for all the defects which envy and malevolence and contracted bigotry can point out. His leading principle, and he seems to have uniformly adhered to it, was, that "he, who from *apprehension* or *expectation*, from *gratitude* or *resentment*, from *any worldly motive*, speaks or acts contrary to his decided judgment, in supporting "or in opposing any particular system of politics, "is guilty of a *great sin*; the sad consequences "of which, no worldly interest can compensate." Such a maxim, if conscientiously acted upon in all cases, may prove the means of our being translated to heaven; but a *translation* on this side of the grave is out of the question, and so it

proved. Adieu! we are all well. Kind love to Fanny, not forgetting Jessy.

Yours truly, affectionately, and sincerely,

H. NORWICH.

London, Jan. 26, 1818.

The next letter refers to the means employed to put down the disturbances in the manufacturing districts: it is rather tinged with party. It is worth while to remark here, that Lord Melbourne, now so united with an extreme popular party, separated from the body of Whigs in the House of Commons as Mr. William Lamb, and supported the conduct of the Manchester magistrates.

My dear Henry,

I begin, as a sincere Whig, to fear that the vestal fire is extinct; not a spark of liberty seems to remain. The late decisions in the House of Commons respecting the Scotch trials and the *mode* of employing spies and informers, in defiance both of fact and of arguments, exceeds any thing I ever remember. If the bulk of the people, at the approaching dissolution of parliament, will not take care to have a more real representation, the fault is all their own;—"Si populus vult decipi, decipiatur."

Between diocese and other business in the morning, and reading some new publications in

the evening, my hours pass away pleasantly enough : as yet we have been but little out.

The death of Sir R. Croft is the great topic of conversation : the poor man, always nervous, never has recovered the loss of her whom we all deplore ; and it is also said, that he was much affected by not being sufficiently noticed on Thursday at the levee. The Duke of Wellington was shot at, in Paris, a few days since, just as he was going into his hotel, but fortunately escaped unhurt. Similar attempts will probably be made ; at all events, it is a very unpleasant circumstance. The —— is not well ; but there appears to be no more anxiety for her fate, than she expressed for the fate of her grand-daughter. Adieu ! Your mother and sisters are well ; and I am better than a man of my age can reasonably expect to be. Kind love to Fanny, not forgetting Jessy and the little ones.

Believe me

Your affectionate father and sincere friend,

H. NORWICH.

London, Feb. 16, 1818.

The following refers to a publication by the Archdeacon, styled ' A Letter to Mr. Wilberforce,' which was very well received at the time : the author has retained no copy of it.

My dear Henry,

Yesterday I perused, with pleasure, your late publication; it is not only very *well written*, but also with great moderation and good sense; and no admirer of my friend Mr. Wilberforce can justly assert, that the line of conduct which he pursues in parliament is consistent with those Christian principles which so eminently distinguish his character in private life. "Whether it be right to obey God rather than you," says an indignant apostle under the reign of a tyrant, "judge ye." Such men as Lord Albemarle and Mr. Coke, it is impossible to speak of in terms too high; and "though fallen on evil days and evil tongues," their example cannot but be productive of beneficial effects. Lord Dillon published, or rather *printed*, not long since, 'A Discourse upon the Theory of Legitimate Government:' there are in it many lively and some solid observations. He ridicules, I think, very happily, the gross abuse of this fashionable word: "Every thing is *legitimate*, or breathes *legitimacy*: for instance, the re-establishment of the *Pope* at *Rome* is highly *legitimate*; so is the Protestant ascendancy in *Ireland*; though *England* has the chief hand in *both* these measures. Poland is most *legitimately* divided between Russia, Austria, and Prussia. The beloved Ferdinand

“ conceives the inquisition to be the *legitimate* mediator between God and man. And nothing can be more *legitimate* than all people should be taxed according to the humour and caprice of their several governments.” His remarks upon modern loyalty are equally just:—“ The noble and generous nature of a gentleman inclines him to justice and to a love of liberty. This tendency is counteracted by a vague notion of *LOYALTY* to his prince: but if *loyalty* mean any thing, it implies a strict observance of the *laws*; whereas among us *Loyalty* signifies an absolute and blind obedience to the *Prince*: the *loyalty*, therefore, of our noblemen and gentry is not a due regard to their *own dignity*, or the *protection of the people*; who naturally look to them, to think and act for them; but a sort of fantastical attachment to a particular dynasty or chief.” I have not leisure to make more extracts, but I do not repent of the trouble it has given to write out these few lines. We are all pretty well. Remember me very kindly to Fanny and her sister, not forgetting the children.

Yours sincerely and affectionately,

H. NORWICH.

London, March 9, 1818.

The new parliament—Mr. Canning—are spoken of in the next letter :—

My dear Henry,

Many thanks for your kind and entertaining letter. It gave me great pleasure to hear that your journey proved so pleasant, as I much feared that you would all of you have suffered from the unusual heat of the weather. A quiet walk in my garden has always proved to me a sufficient remedy for the few evils which have fallen to my lot ; but during the last six weeks, with the thermometer at 87, the drooping plants and withering flowers made me quite melancholy, for I cannot, like Thomson's virtuous man,

Sit coolly calm, while all the world without,
Unsatisfied and sick, tosses at noon.

Happy am I to tell you, that the heaven-sent rain, which fell yesterday, has revived both the vegetable and the animal creation in a very uncommon degree.

Robert is better, but still weak ; and it will require time to recruit his strength and spirits. Your little girl is in high feather. Poor Mrs. Prosser is an incomparable woman ; and a more friendly man than he is, does not exist. His

toryism is the effect of too long a residence in those schools, when, till within these few years,

A right divine in kings to govern wrong,

was an axiom not to be controverted.

If we may be allowed to form a judgment from the returns made to the new parliament, the spirit of civil and religious liberty breathes from every quarter of the united kingdom. Mr. Canning tells his gaping admirers at Liverpool, that when we talk of the sense of the people, we mean our own sense. This certainly *may* be the case; but it is far more likely that those are mistaken in their judgment respecting public opinion, who take their ideas from the representation of the vain and selfish insects which flutter about a Court. Adieu! Remember me kindly to all, and

Believe me

Your affectionate father and friend,

H. NORWICH.

Norwich, July 28, 1818.

CHAPTER XI.

Consists of more letters, &c.—includes a letter from Dr. Philpotts—the Duke of Kent—Major Cartwright.

THE following letter refers to the Catholic question—a question which it will be seen was next to the heart:—

My dear Henry,

My ordination will be over on Sunday the 27th. I shall be truly glad to see you at the time you mention. Tryphena was the companion of my journey to this place; she is now at Gimmingham, and I am going this very day to bring her back. Your mother and Caroline join us here on *Monday* next.

You would have been delighted to hear Lord Grey and Lord Grenville plead for the repeal of declarations, which *revile falsely* one party, and lay a *stumbling-block* in the way of the other; for

you and I do not want to be convinced that there is hardly an ingenuous young man in a hundred, who, when he first takes his seat in either house of parliament, is aware, that he pronounces five parts out of six of the Christian world to be *idolaters*. That any consideration should induce so great a majority of the most enlightened assembly in Europe to vote in favour of such declarations is a melancholy proof that the striking remark of Seneca is not less applicable to the bulk of those who move in the higher walks of life, than it is to those of a more humble condition—

Creditur, non judicatur: sequimur antecedentium gregem,
Non quà eundum est, sed quà itur.

I am so sick of repeated disappointments of what appear to me reasonable expectations, that I have determined to sell my house in town, and to pass the short remainder of my life in quiet. Adieu! Kind love to Fanny, not forgetting your heir apparent.

Believe me

Your affectionate father and sincere friend,

H. NORWICH.

Norwich, June the 18th, 1819.

A pamphlet of Dr. Philpotts is the subject of

the following epistle : it relates to the Catholic question like the last :—

My dear Henry,

Enclosed I send you a letter which I received the other day from your old acquaintance, Mr. Philpotts; it is not written with that pertness which he displayed in his correspondence with the Bishop of St. David's. In answer, I told him, of all men living I was the last who had any right to take offence at difference of opinion, as I was so unfortunate as to think differently from many wise and good men of my own profession; that “*refellere sine iracundiâ, et refelli sine pervicaciâ*” ought to be the practice of all controversialists, though it rarely was so: but at the same time I could not help expressing my surprise, that any serious clergyman or layman should contend for the expediency or justice of *declarations*, which reviled one party, and *laid* a snare in the way of the other; which taught young men upon their first entrance into public life to palter with the most solemn of all obligations, by solemnly asserting what they had not thought about, or, if they had thought, did not believe,—namely, that five parts of six of the Christian world were *idolaters*, in consequence of entertaining peculiar

sentiments respecting the manner in which our blessed Lord was present in the sacrament; or that *desiring* the *prayers* of the *saints* can justly be said to expose them to the same gross imputation, especially when the terms they make use of in their 'Manual of Instruction' are (which is really the case) the same as those used by Nelson in his explanation of the Collect for All Saints' Day. He has not sent me, or rather I have not received, his pamphlet; if I had, you should have it.

I have had a great deal of trouble and vexation about poor John Smith's wife, who has decamped, and has left her husband and her unfortunate charge in the lurch. With a good deal of exertion I have at last settled matters in a comfortable manner. On Monday I go to Quidenham, and, after marrying Lady Sophia Keppel, shall proceed upon my journey. About the 27th or 28th I hope to return home. Adieu! Love to Fanny, not forgetting Mr. and Mrs. Mackenzie.

Yours, &c. &c. most affectionately,

H. NORWICH.

Norwich, August the 7th, 1819.

From the Rev. Dr. Philpotts.

College, Durham, 22nd July, 1819.

My Lord,

I have directed my bookseller, Mr. Murray, in Albemarle Street, to transmit to your Lordship a copy of a printed letter, addressed by me to Earl Grey, on occasion of his Lordship's speech in the House of Lords, on moving the second reading of a bill to abrogate the test against popery. Although I have not thought it necessary to obtrude my name on the public, and have subscribed myself "a Clergyman of the diocese of Durham," yet as I have presumed to animadvert on your Lordship's speech delivered on the same occasion, I feel it incumbent on me to avow myself to you as the author.

In doing this, I will frankly own that I feel no slight reluctance. I have expressed myself in my pamphlet with that freedom respecting your Lordship's speech, which the interests of a cause that cannot be too dear to me appeared in my judgment to require. On the political question your Lordship was not likely ever to be made the object of any of my feeble remarks; for though I am not able to see that question as your Lordship does, yet as little am I prepared to agree with those who are most violently opposed to you: but on the religious topics I could not consistently

with my own feelings of duty forbear raising my humble voice. If in doing so I have said any thing which shall impair the good-will with which you have honoured me, I shall deeply lament such a result. I can only console myself with the reflection, that what I have written has been dictated by sincerity, and not sent forth without deliberation.

I have the honour to be, my Lord,
With sincere respect, your Lordship's
faithful and obedient servant,
HENRY PHILPOTTS.

The answer to this is not forthcoming.

The following letter is written to the Arch-deacon Bathurst, when on a short visit to Paris : it gives an opinion respecting the Manchester meeting :—

My dear Henry,

In the course of a long life, I never had at *the same time* leisure and money to see any country but my own : if it had ever been in my power to gratify so innocent and so laudable a curiosity, Switzerland, on account of the beauties of nature, and Rome and Greece for every reason, would have been the principal objects of

my peregrinations : but “ life’s somewhat longer journey ” being with me nearly at an end, I am quite content to be stationary, and to leave younger travellers “ *mores et urbes hominum multorum videre* ; ” and in these eventful days there is most assuredly enough to do *at home*, and more than enough to see. I rejoice to find that you propose to return home soon, because it is exceedingly probable that there will be a county meeting before the middle of October, for the purpose of taking into consideration the late proceedings at Manchester,—proceedings which even I, who am no ultra-reformist, am persuaded call aloud for investigation, independently entirely of party ; for if the magistrates acted legally, and the military justifiably, it is high time that the *Riot Act* should be repealed or amended ; if not, there is an end at once of our boasted liberty.

“ I had rather be a dog, and bay the moon,
Than be a Roman ” on such terms as these.

Burges has written a voluminous pamphlet ; parts of it very eloquent, but so unwarrantably personal, and so unjust to two * of the best men living, that I am quite vexed. He speaks of you

* The Earl of Albemarle and Mr. Coke.

in the most handsome terms ; but praise loses its value, when accompanied with the censure of those we love and esteem : I should not be surprised if he were prosecuted for defamation. Kind love to Fanny. I forwarded her letter to little Fanny. I hope our worthy friend Mr. Mackenzie and his sensible well-natured wife enjoy their excursion as much as you seem to do. Adieu !

Believe me

Your affectionate father and friend,

H. NORWICH.

Norwich, September 13th, 1819.

From his late Royal Highness the Duke of Kent.

Kensington Palace, 23rd Oct., 1819.

My dearest Bishop,

Will you permit me to bring again to your recollection a request I made of you last year, to grant ordination to a worthy pious literary man, of the name of North, who is well known in this metropolis as a very able teacher of the Classics, as well as of the French and [*here the manuscript is worn*] language ; and now to renew it, upon the grounds of my wishing to take him with me as my chaplain to Devonshire, where I intend passing the winter with the Duchess and

•

our little infant; the principal object of which is, that he may forward her instruction in the English language, in which she has already made as much progress as could be expected, considering first her confinement of above a month, and then the constant calls of duty as a nurse. It will therefore be obliging no less the Duchess than myself, if you will comply with our wish, and thereby enable us to attach this worthy man to us in an ostensible situation, and who at the same time that he follows the Duchess' instruction in English, will be essentially useful in the education of her daughter who has accompanied us.

I am happy in this opportunity of bringing myself to your Lordship's friendly recollection, and of repeating the sentiments of unalterable regard, esteem, and attachment, with which I ever am,

My dearest Bishop,

Yours most faithfully,

EDWARD.

The Right Reverend

The Lord Bishop of Norwich.

P. S. As I am going from home to-morrow night, and shall not be home until Friday, should your Lordship comply with my request, perhaps you would have the goodness to apprise Mr. North direct of it at [*here the manuscript is worn*]

Square, Bloomsbury, and fix the day on which he should attend you at Norwich, and which I should hope would be an early one, as he must be ready to attend us any day after the 10th of next month.

From the late Major Cartwright.

37, Burton Crescent, London.
16th November, 1819.

My Lord,

As the organ of the freeholders of Middlesex, I have the honour to transmit to you their request, as expressed in their twelfth resolution at the late county meeting.

Had your Lordship been in town, it had been my wish to have placed in your hands (had you permitted it) their declaration as now engrossed on vellum.

The struggle for national freedom or slavery apparently drawing towards a crisis, perhaps your Lordship will see the fitness of the resolutions that are embodied in the document, of which a copy is now laid before you.

There being very evident causes for apprehending, on the part of ministers, a repetition of measures, to which, for strangling all exertions for a recovery of our freedom, they have formerly resorted, it has been thought, my Lord, that you,

who have on all occasions evinced that moral feeling respecting public affairs which naturally emanates from true religion, would be disposed to promote the object expressed in the 12th, free from any of those passions by which men who are active and prominent in political warfare are frequently influenced.

It has also been imagined, that the solemn act of such a declaration as that of Middlesex, having been presented to the Regent by a body of patriotic noblemen, might in a considerable degree aid in raising such a public voice against fresh acts of indemnity or of suspension, as might deter ministers from the attempt.

This, indeed, would be an inevitable consequence, if the Regent, on receiving the declaration, with the doctrine of it well supported by the noble presenters, should perceive the illegality and the danger of giving the royal assent to acts which should exceed the authority of the legislature.

It is, my Lord, but too certain, that among the noblemen now to be applied to, there are those who have had no slight leaning towards that omnipotence of parliament, which is but another word for despotism ; on which account it was, that I was anxious to have deposited the declaration in the hands of your Lordship, in a confident trust

of your holding a more correct opinion on the office of a parliament, and of your being able to remove such objections as might otherwise have indisposed some noble lords from joining in the act of presenting it to the Regent.

Happy for our country, indeed, would it be, if a considerable body of our noblemen, viewing in its true light the condition of their country, should, on presenting the declaration to the Regent, feel it right to declare, that touching the extent of parliamentary authority, it expressed their own sentiment!

Should it so happen that your Lordship is coming to town, and would permit me to follow the course I have wished, it would afford me hopes of a good result, which would be in the highest degree gratifying to,

My Lord, your Lordship's obedient servant,

JOHN CARTWRIGHT.

P. S. It will occur to your Lordship, that my application for your patronage of the declaration is in the hope that you would take the trouble of conferring with the other noblemen included in the request of the freeholders, touching the matter of presenting it to the Regent.

The Lord Bishop of Norwich.

CHAPTER XII.

Includes letters from Earl Grey on the Catholic question—Earl Fitzwilliam on the same—also from Earl Fitzwilliam and from the Bishop of Norwich on the subject of the famous Manchester meeting—also a letter from Dr. Howley, Bishop of London, on Church matters—also a letter from the late Dr. Parr, and one from the Bishop of Norwich; and another from the late Lord Erskine on the subject of the late Queen Caroline.

Portman Square, May 21st, 1819.

My dear Lord,

I am very sorry that I happened to be out when your Lordship was so good as to call the other day. I intended to have waited on you this morning, but am unfortunately prevented; and as I am going out of town for a few days to-morrow, I am under the necessity of taking this mode of stating to you my intention of bringing

in a bill to repeal the two declarations against transubstantiation, and the invocation of saints, &c., leaving for the present the oath of supremacy as it is.

My inducement to do this, arises from the admissions made by Lord Liverpool both in the last and in the previous debates on the Catholic question: consistently with these, he ought not to oppose a measure to remove tests applied to dogmatical opinions merely, which have no connexion with any question of civil or even of spiritual supremacy. The abrogation of these unnecessary tests will of itself be a great step gained, and will facilitate the alteration of the oath of supremacy at some future period.

If your Lordship should concur with me in thinking this an expedient measure, it will gratify me very much to have your support in the progress of the bill. I intend to present it to-day, to have it read a first time and printed, (to which I think there can be no objection,) and to fix the earliest open day after the holydays for the second reading—probably this day fortnight; I am afraid an earlier cannot be had.

If it were not presuming too much, I should request the honour of having my motion for the second reading seconded by your Lordship, be-

lieving that nothing could be so advantageous to a cause which you have done so much to promote.

I am, with the highest respect and esteem,

My dear Lord,

Your very faithful humble servant,

GREY.

Portman Square, June 4th, 1819.

My dear Lord,

After a great deal of correspondence with Lord Liverpool about the day of my motion for the second reading of the bill to repeal the declarations, we have at last agreed to fix it for Thursday the 10th, and I hope it certainly will not be delayed beyond that day: this I hope will be less inconvenient to your Lordship than Friday. If it had been settled for that day, or if that arrangement should still ultimately be made, which I hope is nearly impossible, I should strongly have urged your Lordship, even at the expense of losing your valuable assistance, not to expose yourself to the fatigue and hazard which Lord Albemarle tells me must have been the consequence of your attending the debate.

I am, with the highest regard, my dear Lord,

Ever yours most faithfully,

GREY.

Milton, July 4th.

My good Lord,

Though in the past event unsuccessful, your Lordship has, I am sure, seen with great satisfaction the progress made by the friends of substantial toleration towards a better issue in time to come; and it will add to your satisfaction to know, that by proxy you were yourself one of that respectable phalanx. The Bishop of Rochester being still but a convalescent, and quite unequal to the fatigue of attendance, I entered your proxy to the Bishop of Kildare, who undertook with pride a trust so honourable. I showed him your letter, because it authorised the holder of the proxy not to confine the giving it to the single question respecting the Catholics, but that it was intended to extend to any bill extending toleration to every sect professing Christianity: I was particularly anxious that the Bishop should understand the extent of his powers, because the occasion has by this time arisen, when he would have to exercise his judgment.

A bill is now before the house, brought in by Lord Stanhope, and, may I venture to say, of course, so drawn, as to render it difficult for the *friends of the principle of the measure* to determine what to do: it professes to repeal restrictive and

penal statutes, (all of which in private conversation Lord S. tells you he knows,) but in his bill he chooses not to name one : he particularises nothing, but sweeps all before him by general designation—thus leaving to courts of law to determine what law is repealed and what not—what law continues in force and what not ; thus sowing the seeds of difference and contest between judge and jury, and placing the subject in a state of complete uncertainty and insecurity. On such an occasion I profess I had no inclination to deliver an opinion to direct another, when I knew not how to direct myself. The Bishop of Kildare's better judgment will point out to him the mode of disposing of your Lordship's proxy in the manner he thinks will best meet your wishes : to the general principle of toleration, not in word but in substance, I have every reason to think the Bishop zealously disposed, and therefore trust his decision on Lord S.'s bill will not prove at variance with your own opinion.

With true esteem and respect, I am,

My good Lord,

Your Lordship's faithful servant,

WENTWORTH FITZWILLIAM.

Bishop of Norwich.

Malvern, July 21st, 1819.

My dear Lord,

I had yesterday the pleasure of receiving your very kind letter of the 14th, enclosing a note from the Bishop of London, which I return.

I cannot sufficiently thank your Lordship for your ready attention to the request I ventured to make to you, when I last had the pleasure of seeing you in the House of Lords: the gentleman in whose favour I entreated your kind offices is the Rev. Mr. Morton; and if he should succeed in his object, I trust he will not prove undeserving of your patronage.

I observe in the Bishop of London's note an allusion to the negociation of an exchange of a curacy for a living: if this referred to a hint of a disposition on the part of your Lordship to use a part of your own patronage, to promote my wishes in favour of Mr. Morton, I can only say whilst I acknowledge this additional mark of your kindness, that I had no intention of imposing such a tax upon you: if however these were the means of obtaining for him a living of the value of £200 per annum, particularly if it were in a situation which would enable him to take pupils, I have no

doubt that it would not be less acceptable to him than a curacy in London.

I see a letter advertised in the Newcastle paper, as addressed to me upon my speech on the second reading of our unfortunate bill, by a clergyman of the diocese of Durham : I take it for granted this is by some clergyman who thinks this may not be an ineffectual step to preferment in that diocese. My poor brother, I am afraid, is likely to suffer for my sins.

I don't know whether your Lordship has seen what passed at the late meeting of the Catholics in Dublin : a part of the proceedings has vexed me very much ;—a paragraph had appeared in the 'Dublin Evening Post,' attacking the English opposition in the most virulent terms, as the secret advisers of the violent resolutions which were passed in 1812, and which gave so much offence : this was noticed, and the part denied as calumnious and false by Mr. O'Connell : but the editor of the paper referred to Mr. Hay, the secretary to the Catholic committee, as his authority ; who, strange to say, confirmed the statement in substance, and has since published a letter, calculated to convey the impression that he is possessed of secret information, to the effect that he has stated : this infamous calumny, I trust, is in a way to receive a complete contradiction ; but in

the mean time I cannot resist the opportunity of assuring your Lordship, that I, for one, never heard of the resolutions of 1812 till I saw them in the papers; that I then lamented them as extremely imprudent and injurious to the Catholic cause, and that I cannot conceive any thing more improbable than that they should have been approved by any leading member of the opposition of that time, without my knowledge. Excuse this trouble, which has been occasioned by my desire to put a person whom I so much esteem, and who has shown so honourable a zeal in the cause of religious toleration, in possession of the means of refuting a report, if it should reach you, that I conceive to be more injurious to my character, as a member of the party against whom this falsehood has been invented, than any thing that has yet been circulated by our adversaries.

I remain, with the highest regard, my dear Lord,

Your Lordship's most faithful
and obliged humble servant,

GREY.

From the late Earl Fitzwilliam, upon the Manchester meeting
in 1819, what is called Peterloo.

Wentworth, Nov. 2nd, 1819.

My most good and venerable Lord,

A bundle of letters is now laying before me in arrears, but there they shall lay till I have acknowledged the favour of your Lordship's most kind letter, which this morning's post has just brought. It is pleasing to be approved, but it is doubly so when it is the approbation of one whom one esteems and venerates : I confess, that I am highly gratified that the conduct I have holden meets with your respected approbation. I did not take the step in forwarding a meeting in Yorkshire, without being aware of the disapprobation and censure it would probably bring upon me : but in the course of my long political life, no occasion has ever occurred that calls so loudly for prompt and immediate observation as that which has recently occurred ;—dangerous as were the measures at Manchester, they were unimportant when compared with the *sanction given to them in the name of the Crown*. Passive acquiescence in the last, on the part of the public, would have established a precedent our posterity would have to rue. My anxiety certainly was, to awaken

my country to the danger impending over it;—it is the fashion of the day. I have had and have my alarms about the mischiefs that may arise out of the abuse of important constitutional rights and privileges; but one abuse is not to be corrected by another: it is not by the violation of the constitution and all its vital principles, that the constitution is to be saved and maintained. I may feel it my duty to check and control the attempts at subversion on one part, but I feel it no less a duty to resist as dangerous ones on the other part—my object is to steer in the middle course: to do so, I must keep my eyes around me, watching every point, and in whatever quarter the storm may be brooding,—to put my country on its guard, by directing its attention to that quarter. In this great object, I am happy [*here the manuscript is damaged*] It is some sort of gratification to observe, that none venture to disclaim the basis of our measures, our two leading principles:—1st, The right of the subject to meet for consideration of grievances:—2ndly, That to draw the sword on the people assembled for such purpose, and *peaceably demeaning* themselves, is illegal and unconstitutional—here rests our case; on these axioms the verdict *Guilty* or *Not guilty* must be given. I feel its importance, but should in the first instance the verdict be against us, it is a

cause on which we may move again and again for a new trial ; at length it will be carried, or the English constitution is no more.

I am, my dear Lord, with sincere esteem and regard,

Your Lordship's most faithfully,

WENTWORTH FITZWILLIAM.

Bishop of Norwich.

Earl Fitzwilliam was removed from the Lord Lieutenancy of the West Riding of Yorkshire, for presiding at a meeting where the Manchester magistrates were censured.—
Ed.

From the Bishop of London, now Archbishop of Canterbury.

My dear Lord,

I have been much vexed at the circumstance of not being able to procure a curacy for the gentleman you mentioned to me as Lord Grey's friend. I spoke to Lord Grey myself on the subject some time ago, and desired Mr. M. might call on me ; but I do assure you there is not, I believe, a respectable clergyman in London who would take my recommendation of a curate, except I could speak to his qualifications from my own personal knowledge. In the present case I have frequently mentioned *the person*, but

without effect; for what can I say of character or fitness for cure of souls? That he is a worthy man I fully believe, for Lord Grey told me so; and so I am sure he has told you, or you would not have recommended him to me. An opportunity of conversation might perhaps enable me to say more; but even then my clergy are not in the habit of coming to me on these occasions, except from necessity, when from the ill-conditions of the situation they are unable to find a curate.

I am sorry to hear you mean to move any point in the 57th of Geo. III.; you say the 59th clause—I apprehend you mean the 69th, relating to the removal of curates, which I think a necessary power * * * *

If I regarded my personal ease, I should promote the abridgment of episcopal power as much as possible; for no man is answerable for evils which he has not the power to prevent: but taking a very different view of the duties of my station, I must act on conscientious motives, and you are the last man in the world who would wish me to do otherwise.

We are living in very dangerous times, and what will be the issue, God only knows. We suffer like the Greeks and Trojans, “ambitione,

dolo, scelere, atque libidine, et irâ ;” and perhaps the event may be the same.

Ἔσσεται ἡμαρ, όταν ποτ' ὀλώλῃ Ἴλιος ἱρῇ,
Καὶ Πρίαμος, καὶ λαὸς εὐμελίῳ Πριάμοιο·

or, in Pope's more emphatic paraphrase,

When Priam's sons and Priam's self shall fall,
And one prodigious ruin bury all.

Indeed, I think it not unlikely that while we are squabbling who is in fault, we shall all go together. With a view to the possibility of such a termination, I shall endeavour so to demean myself in my individual capacity, that whatever happens, I may at least go out of the world with a safe conscience.

I am concerned to hear Mrs. Bathurst is ill ; but hope she will derive benefit from the waters of Cheltenham.

Believe me, my dear Lord,
With sincere regard, truly yours,
W. LONDON.

Howick, April 30th, 1820.

My dear Lord,

I cannot sufficiently thank you for the kind pains you have taken to procure a curacy in London for the gentleman I recommended to you.

His name is James Morton, and he is to be heard of at No. 10, South-crescent, Bedford-square. I am also much obliged to you for your attention to the case of Mr. Sworde, whom I have every reason to believe a most deserving man.

I remain, with the highest esteem,
My dear Lord, ever most faithfully yours,
GREY.

From the late Rev. Dr. Parr, touching the Archdeacon's communications to him, with reference to Her Majesty the late Queen Caroline.

[*Mem.* It was not the intention of the Editor originally to have given the whole of this letter; but feeling that the public will make allowance for the known habit of exaggerations, both as to praise and blame, of the late celebrated Dr. Parr, and knowing that Dr. Parr wished the letter to be one day published, the editor gives it at full length—large as life.]

Hatton, Nov. 11, 1820.

Reverend, learned, and deeply respected Mr.
Archdeacon Bathurst,

I read your manly and interesting letter* with exquisite delight, for it was worthy of your

* Of the letter alluded to, I have no copy: it, I believe, contained an offer to ask my father, to propose to the Bishops to mediate in the quarrels between the King and Queen.—ED.

sagacity, your fortitude, and your integrity. I employed my scribe in forwarding it to Lady Ann Hamilton. I desired her Ladyship to lay it before the Queen, and to explain who and what you are, as an ecclesiastical dignitary, as a man of letters, as a man of reflection, as a man of courage, and as the eldest son of a prelate who towers far above his fellows in purity of principle, independence of spirit, and holiness of life : I am commissioned by her Majesty to convey her approbation and her thanks ; and you, dear Sir, will set a just value upon them. I should have written to you before, but I have been for nearly three months, and for three months to come I shall continue to be, very busy in preparing a catalogue of my copious and useful library. O, Mr. Archdeacon, how happy should I be to welcome you at my table, and introduce you to my books ! What a glorious triumph it is to you, to Mr. Coke, and your father, that public opinion, wisely formed and vigorously expressed, has been victorious over the worst artifices and the worst efforts of the worst ministers and their worst adherents, and an employer, who in the duration, the extent, the variety, the subtlety, and the malignity of his revenge, surpasses every wicked man that ever fell within my notice : but he has been baffled, he is disgraced, and probably he is dismayed. Arch-

deacon, does not your bosom glow with joy, are not your eyes and your heart lifted up to Heaven, when you compare the disposition and the conduct of your venerable father, with the profligate servility and the brutal inhumanity of his episcopal brethren?—not one of them seems to have formed any clear opinion upon the language of our blessed Lord: they have just glanced at the case, and picked up a few superficial incoherent notions, which they could neither arrange correctly nor express perspicuously; but they stand very unequivocal signs of a disposition *καπηλεύειν τὸν λόγον τοῦ Θεοῦ*,* in flattery to the King, and for the promotion of their own secular purposes. This is a deadly blow to the honour and security of the Church—

Hoc Ithacus velit, et magno mercentur Atridæ.

I beg my best compliments to Mrs. Bathurst, and have the honour to be, with great respect, your faithful well-wisher and

Obedient humble servant,

S. PARR.

Mem. Dr. Parr left the Archdeacon a ring by his will.

* 2 Epist. Corinth. c. ii. v. 17.

The following letter relates to a proposal made by Mr. Brougham, to preach the sermon on Queen Caroline going to St. Paul's, to return thanks for the defeat of the bill of pains and penalties :—

My dear Henry,

You could not, without inconsistency, have declined the offer made you, and I much doubt the prudence and good sense of the Dean of St. Paul's in refusing you the use of his pulpit. The tide of public opinion runs, at present, so strongly in favour of our sentiments, that it will prove no easy matter to stem it; and therefore a wise man would allow it to take its course, rather than by fruitless opposition increase its violence. The current which with gentle murmurs flows,

Thou know'st, being stopp'd, impatiently doth rage.

So says that great master of human nature, who is almost as excellent a philosopher as he is a poet. Adieu! Love to Fanny.

Yours, &c. truly,

H. NORWICH.

Cheltenham, Nov. 29, 1820.

Letter from the late Lord Erskine touching the bill affecting
her late Majesty Queen Caroline.

No. 14, Arabella Row.

My dear Sir,

I hope you will believe that I am fully sensible of your very great kindness in sending me your excellent sermon, and still more for the partial and flattering allusion in the twenty-second page. Though released from attendance by being above the age of seventy, I could not conscientiously withdraw; and having attended, it was quite impossible, that consistently with the principles of the constitution, or with the rules of evidence, to which I could not but submit after the experience of so many years in a court of justice, I could have given a different judgment; and many of the circumstances tended strongly to make the legal presumptions and the moral conviction go together.

I have the honour to be, with many thanks,

Your faithful humble servant,

ERSKINE.

Dec. 19th, 1820.

The Rev. Archdeacon Bathurst.

CHAPTER XIII.

The extract immediately following is rather desponding—

Lady Dacre—The remainder of the chapter refers to a discussion with the late Bishop of Winchester (Dr. Tomline) as to ordination.

* * * On Monday the 3rd I propose setting out for London, where I shall pass the winter *for the last time*: many ecclesiastical matters will be brought before parliament, which bid fair to excite a considerable degree of that *odium theologicum*, which it is usually less easy to soften than even political animosities. Adieu! Peace, peace, will be my dying accents, as it was of Lord Falkland. Remember me very kindly to Fanny, and

Believe me

Your affectionate father and sincere friend,

H. NORWICH.

Somerleaze, Nov. the 23rd, 1821.

The following letter is from Lady Dacre: it is

without a date ; it was attended with a present of Poems by her Ladyship.

My Lord,

It is probable your Lordship has no recollection of a niece of Dr. Ogle, the late Dean of Winchester, who was on a visit to him twenty years ago at Durham ; and even if you have, you will perhaps be at a loss to recognise her by another name. It is, however, not probable that I should forget one who was so kind to my dear old uncle and aunt under their various sufferings, even if your Lordship had no other title to my esteem than this grateful remembrance.

May I then venture to present to you this little collection of my poetical attempts, some of which have already experienced your indulgence in manuscript ; and to hope, that, as the friend of my late aunt and uncle, you will accept my offering, although I have not been so fortunate as to improve my acquaintance with you since I was in Durham.

May I make my best compliments to such of your family as have any recollection of me, and subscribe myself,

Your Lordship's obliged humble servant,

B. DACRE.

2, Chesterfield Street, May Fair.

Answer.

Dear Lady Dacre,

“The inaudible and noiseless foot of Time steals on me,” but my advanced age has not made me forget, as you seem to think it may, the strongly marked impression which even a slight acquaintance with talents such as yours is calculated to make upon any mind not entirely sunk in the pursuits of a vain and selfish world. With respect to myself, I can most sincerely declare, that from my first introduction to your Ladyship I have felt interested in your happiness, and in the course of a long life I recollect very few circumstances which gave me more real pleasure than your union with a nobleman whose public and private character render him worthy of you, and whose discernment enables him to estimate, as they deserve, the rare qualities which you possess:—

For well the patriot knew
That letters and the Muses' powerful art
Exalt the ingenuous heart,
And brighten every form of just and true.

May you both long enjoy the best reward which on this side the grave Heaven can bestow upon human beings—the reward of passing their days

with a partner meet for them. Accept my grateful acknowledgments for your kind and valuable present, from the perusal of which I anticipate——but I must not say what, lest you should suspect an old Bishop of straining his feeble faculties to make fine and flattering speeches. Adieu !

H. NORWICH.

P.S. My wife desires to be kindly remembered to your Ladyship.

The Bishop was very much pleased with Lady Dacre's attentions. He always admired pretty and agreeable ladies, and there never was a man worth a farthing who did not.

The Bishop has been blamed for his facility in giving holy orders to men who had not taken degrees at either of the universities ; but he was always of opinion that a pious religious turn of mind was of much more consequence in that state, than a certain *quantum* of learning. The following is a letter he received from Dr. Pretyma, Bishop of Winchester, on the subject :—

Great George Street, May 31st, 1821.

My dear Lord,

I received the enclosed this morning from a person calling himself Dr. Irving. I had

heard of his intention to apply to me, and had determined, in consequence of what I heard from persons on whose testimony I could rely, not to accept him as a candidate for holy orders; of course, I cannot countersign his testimonials addressed to your Lordship, and more especially as my ordination will be, not on Whitsunday, but on Trinity Sunday, the same day as your Lordship's. I thought it incumbent on me to give you this information; and I take the liberty of observing, that I apprehend Dr. Irving could not have any real nomination to a curacy in your diocese, as he is engaged as a schoolmaster at Southampton: I am the more induced to make this observation, as only on Tuesday last I licensed Mr. Lewin to a perpetual curacy, who informed me that he had been eight years in the service of the East India Company, and, after keeping only three terms at Cambridge, had been ordained both deacon and priest by you at the interval of only four months, and that he served a curacy in your diocese only a still shorter time. Allow an older Bishop, and almost as old a man as your Lordship, to remark, that this facility in granting orders is found very inconvenient to other Bishops. I have reason to think that Dr. Irving applied to you rather than to me, because he knew that I had fuller means of inquiring into his character than your Lordship,

and that after such inquiry it was not probable that I should admit him. Excuse this liberty from an old friend, and believe me,

With great regard,

My dear Lord, very faithfully yours,
G. WINTON.

“ Mr. Lewin had not been three years in England when he was ordained by you, and he does not mean to proceed to a degree at Cambridge. I observe that Dr. Irving's testimonials are dated April 10th, and are addressed to you, which shows that his intention then was to apply to you.”

Answer to the Bishop of Winchester.

My dear Lord,

The real interest of religion, and also of our own ecclesiastical establishment, is as dear to me, as it can possibly be to you or to any of my brethren on the bench of Bishops; nor do I want to be informed, that, without a regular succession of pious and learned ministers of the Gospel, this interest is not likely to be effectually maintained. I have therefore, since my first appointment to this laborious diocese, uniformly felt anxious in the discharge of the most impor-

tant duty of my episcopal office,—to ordain those only, of whose religious, moral, and literary character I had good reason to think well. At the same time, being firmly persuaded that a serious turn of mind and genuine piety, accompanied with a moderate degree of human learning, are far more useful qualifications in a clergyman, than a large share of the latter, without a sufficient portion of the former, I have never scrupled, and never shall scruple, under the guidance of a sound discretion, to receive occasionally, as candidates for holy orders, young men, some of whom have not had the advantage of an academical education, and others who have never taken a degree; nor do I recollect any instance in which I have the least reason to repent of having done so. This facility in granting orders is found, you say, “very inconvenient to other Bishops.” Whether such be in fact the case, or not, I will by no means take upon myself to decide; but you must allow an “older man, though not an older Bishop,” to observe, with the same good humour with which your own remark is made, that the facility most injurious to the established church is not in the mistaken lenity of a Bishop, but in that of many respectable individuals, both in Cambridge and in Oxford, and among the beneficed clergy also, who frequently sign testimonials,

from motives of kindness merely, without due consideration; in consequence of which, Bishops are frequently censured for admitting unworthy persons into the ministry, though the blame attaches to those whose signatures have misled them. Feeling much respect for your experience as well as for your judgment, I have taken the trouble to state more fully, than I should otherwise think it necessary to do, the principles by which my episcopal conduct has been, I trust, invariably regulated; and if such principles have not gained me the approbation of the wise and good, they have certainly gained me no other advantage whatever; for at the close of a long life I can truly say, with the great apostle of the Gentiles, "I have coveted no man's silver or gold," not counting such things dear to me, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry which I have received from Him, to whom alone I deem myself accountable. With respect to Dr. Irving, it was never my intention, as he well knows, to ordain him without further inquiry, though a degree in the university of Aberdeen is in my estimation as fair a criterion of literary talents, as one at Oxford or Cambridge. Mr. Lewin is an excellent young man, well known for several years to many of my intimate friends, and I was very glad to ordain him, and continue

to be glad, notwithstanding the irregularity, of which I was perfectly aware. He promised me to proceed to his degree; and I have so good an opinion of his veracity, that I shall be much disappointed if he do not keep his word.

Adieu! Believe me,

My dear Lord, yours, &c.

H. NORWICH.

From the Bishop of Winchester to the Bishop of Norwich.

Great George Street, June 5th, 1821.

My dear Lord,

I thank you for your letter, and should not have troubled your Lordship again upon the subject, if you had not mistaken my meaning. The facility which I took the liberty of mentioning, referred not to your admission of candidates who have never been at either of our universities, or who have not taken their degree, but to your ordaining persons who have no real title in your diocese, and have no intention to serve a curacy in it. Since I last wrote to your Lordship, I have seen Dr. Irving, and he informed me that you had accepted Dr. Hill's nomination of him to the curacy of Holyrood in Southampton, as a title for ordination by you: now surely, my dear Lord, this is a most irregular proceeding. I never knew

or heard of an instance, of one Bishop accepting a nomination to a curacy in the diocese of another Bishop, and it seems to strike at once at the fundamental principles of our ecclesiastical establishment. Excuse this freedom, and believe me,

With great regard, very sincerely yours,

G. WINTON.

The Bishop's answer.

My dear Lord,

To the best of my recollection, Dr. Irving applied to me for ordination, *solely* in consequence of a rule laid down in the diocese of Winchester, by your Lordship's predecessors in that see, respecting degrees taken in either of the universities in Scotland, which degrees appear to me equivalent to those taken in either of our universities. Upon this ground, not many years since I ordained Mr. Graham, a Scotch gentleman, the learned and pious author of 'The Sabbath,' a poem, who proved a blessing to a large parish, in which he officiated in the north of England; and upon the same ground I should probably have received Dr. Irving as a candidate for orders, *after* writing (which I intended to do) to you upon the subject. To ecclesiastical discipline rightly understood, no one can be a more

sincere friend than myself, but I never will consent to tie up my hands without necessity ; though this resolution occasions me a great deal of trouble, and from some of our brethren, who now and then ask me to do that, which by laying down general rules, and not leaving room for those exceptions which must always occur, they have restrained themselves from doing. I am sorry both for your sake and my own, that we have been obliged to write so much upon a matter of no great importance ; for upon the topic of “ fundamental principles,” either as they relate to doctrine or to discipline, we should not perhaps perfectly agree : but be this as it may,

I am, with great truth,

Affectionately yours, &c.

H. NORWICH.

The arrogance and sneering civility with which the letters of Dr. Pretyman are written, display more of the jealousy of one who dreads encroachments upon his own authority, or contradictions to his own “ ipse dixits,” than upon the basis of true Christianity ; as to which in principle or practice few will, between the individuals here corresponding, do otherwise than form a decided opinion. The correspondence of Mr. Adair alone

with this Dr. Pretyman, on the subject of his 'Life of Mr. Pitt,' is quite enough for the public to enable them to form an opinion of his candour, charity, and judgment; and this is all the powder and shot this subject is worth. And Mr. Adair, (now Sir Robert Adair,) whom it would be a dear bargain to buy at his own price, thinks that he himself expended more than his esteem for his opponent will justify.

At the same time it must be allowed, that the point which Dr. Pretyman seems clearly in his first letter to aim at, and when replied to in his second letter to blink, is worthy of attentive consideration;—viz. the inconvenience resulting from the admission of literates into the Church, in a state where the Church is supported through the state in all its institutions, and where the whole system of education for the Church, and ordination to the Church, seems so manifestly to hang together: and it does seem hard that fathers should, through a little pride and vanity natural to man, often at their own great inconvenience, breed up their sons in public schools and universities at a great expense, with a view to the honours and emoluments and peculiar privileges of the Church; and that they should then find the market as it were so overstocked, that in consequence of the admission of others who have never incurred the

risk and expense, or ordeal, which their own sons have gone through, it should be found that their toil and expense were, after all, not necessary ; and that the employments of the Church are, by the inlet of a fresh stream, so full as to leave no *room* for employment often to those who have perhaps laid out a fortune on education for the Church, which, in other walks of life, might have supplied an independence. And while it is thought fit that a church establishment should exist, and be considered as the best means of forwarding Christianity by the state, it does seem only justice that the implied terms of selection and preference should be strictly adhered to. If it were proposed that the establishment in all its branches should be done away, or receive material modification, another question would then arise. It is not meant here to argue these points, but only to contend for consistency in a plan so long as it is espoused. Whenever public sentiment shall effect partial alterations on the side of comprehension, then a latitude in itself, perhaps more desirable, will be the established term of adherence and communion ; and all parties will have fair play alike, every one knowing precisely under what circumstances he stands in life.

And whatever be the form of government established in a nation, the education of those who are to fill the situations of highest trust and im-

portance to the community, must both in prudence and in the nature itself of things have some reference thereto. In a pure republic, it may be conceived that a man with strong natural talents and superficial attainments may, from a ready adaptation of his talents to popular wants and feelings, fill the first situations with great practical effect and credit ; but if under a monarchy, and in an ecclesiastical establishment under a monarchy, although that monarchy be tempered (as every monarchy, to make it consistent with the just rights of men, ought to be tempered,) by institutions strictly popular, yet that which is said in one expressive word to be the principle of monarchy, viz. "honour," must gradually be extinguished, if men of an education, in point of difficulty in attainment and refinement, superior to that within the reach of every one who has a little money and ordinary application, are to be put on a par with those who have little more than a confidence derived from a conceit of their own peculiar qualifications and sentiments and expressions, unchastened by the union of classical learning with theological studies to recommend them, backed by just a sufficient knowledge of Greek and Latin to pass muster among other candidates: if this be the case, then the monarchy and the Church must both fall.

It is true the strong expressions of being called

by the Holy Ghost to the sacred office may seem to savour of something independent of human learning, in fitness for the situation of a minister of the Gospel in the established church; but is it not reasonable that a man, when he thus asserts his conviction that he is thus called to his sacred office, should be understood to mean that he is convinced that he is acting in a manner pleasing to God, and in accordance with and obedience to what he feels to be God's direction, because he has disciplined his mind, and instructed it to the best of his power, with means peculiarly and beyond the reach of others in general, such as qualify him in the state of society and country in which he is placed for the office which he undertakes? And shall a man be allowed to have so qualified himself with a view to a useful effect in society, and a power of teaching religion with due authority and influence, who shall not at least have been fitted by a discipline and instruction, such as shall give a fair and reasonable claim to that authority and influence over others in general? If the doctrine of the Holy Spirit is to be carried to such extravagant lengths, when the age and necessity of miracles is past, as to sanction the idea of superior qualification in the eyes and judgment of men, except that which arises from a higher cultivated mind and reason-

able grounds of hope, from a superior strictness and decency of moral conduct, the barriers against presumption, enthusiasm, and fanaticism are instantly burst ; and the laws of nature being without the direction and even in spite of the Deity, who has given these laws to nature, broken down, in rush all the demons of discord and confusion ; science retires ; fancy flies before a disturbed imagination ; the blue skies of reason are overcast with the storms of misdirected feelings ; and the angels and forms of light, which a merciful religion represents as tutelary to man by Heaven's permission, are changed into the appearance of avenging furies. And no wonder, when learning, that mother which by no unchasteness or crime has forfeited our affection, has been by her own sons deprived of life.

It is consolatory for the writer of these remarks to have heard his father say more than once, that were he to begin his episcopal office again, he would not lay himself open to the many inconveniences which he experienced, by departing from the usual practice in these matters, so long as a liberality similar to his own is not the general principle upon which candidates for orders in the Church of England are admitted.

CHAPTER XIV.

More remarks on public measures, with some on private matters.

Extract of a letter referring to Queen Caroline.

* * * * With respect to your conduct in the Queen's business, it has always appeared to me not only free from blame, but highly honourable; and, as such, I have always spoken of it. Adieu! Kind love to Fanny.

Believe me, most affectionately,

Yours, &c.

H. NORWICH.

London, April the 20th, 1821.

This letter alludes not only to the part which the Archdeacon took in accepting Mr. Brougham's offer to preach at St. Paul's on the dismissal of the bill of pains and penalties against Queen Caroline, but to the Norfolk county petition against

that bill; which petition was written by the Archdeacon, and the very words of which Lord Ellenborough used, when he spoke against the bill—taking the ground of the general conviction of the legal injustice of the measure, and the inexpediency of attempting a measure of the sort against one whose misfortunes raised naturally so general a sympathy.

After dwelling on these points, when the Archdeacon addressed the county meeting, he added amid universal applause, speaking of Prince Leopold's (now King of Belgium) conduct:—"And
" he, even he, who hung on the hand of her de-
" parted daughter in those last agonizing mo-
" ments of existence, when even the secret pro-
" mise of the soul is sacred, who caught her
" expiring sigh, and who drank her latest spirit,—
" even he has forgotten his first love, and steeled
" his heart against the mother of his wife." This passage was received with tears by many, and bursts of applause from all; after which, the speaker continued, "'O God!' exclaimed James
" the Second, 'my own children have forsaken
" me!' What man with the heart of a man is there,
" that does not feel for the tyrant in those trying
" moments? and what man is there, that does
" not extend his sympathy to an unfortunate
" woman like her whose cause I plead, and who,

“ after all, must be said to be more sinned against
“ than sinning ?

“ But, Gentlemen, if you do not feel something
“ for her, I trust you will feel at least something
“ for yourselves ; for if this bill pass into a law,
“ the constitution of England is undone,—that
“ which was intended for its protection becomes an
“ instrument of its destruction ; and the good, the
“ guardian genius of the constitution becomes our
“ accusing and destroying angel.”

Another resolution not to be in London again—Lord Bathurst
invites the Bishop to Cirencester—Some remarks on
toryism.

My dearest Henry,

Sir Eyre having postponed his return to
West Park, to-morrow morning I proceed to
Somerleaze, where I shall stay till Monday the
2nd of next month ; from which time I have
taken a house in London, to the middle of May ;
and it is my resolve never again to pass a winter
in the metropolis, but to sit contented by a fire-
side in my own house at Norwich till I take my
last journey.

Whilst I was at Cheltenham, Lord Bathurst
invited me very kindly to Cirencester, and Lord
Apsley called upon me : the former is as decided a

foe to whiggism as ever. The present state of things is somewhat alarming; there being a large party among us, who, in defiance of public opinion, seem determined to carry every thing with a high hand, not attending to the great change made in the sentiments of the bulk of the people by the diffusion of the advantages of education. "Wouldst thou put out the eyes of these people?" is a question, the answer to which calls for the serious consideration of those who forget that the will of the people is the only just origin of government, and their good the only legitimate *end* of it. Adieu! Kind love to Fanny.

Yours, &c.

Sincerely and affectionately,

H. NORWICH.

Bath, Nov. 14, 1821.

This letter recommends a petition from the clergy in favour of the Catholics:—

My dearest Henry,

As soon as we quitted West Park, we paid a short visit to our old northern friends, the Adairs, in hopes of soothing them in their affliction for the loss of their only daughter—a loss which has almost overwhelmed them with grief. On Saturday we reached Somerleaze, and had the plea-

sure of finding James, his little wife and young tribe, in the full possession of life's best blessing—health. The quiet of this place is exactly suited not only to my age, but to my disposition; and it agrees tolerably well with your mother, who is not worse, but by no means what I wish her to be: I shall not therefore prolong my stay here; because, as winter approaches, she may require frequent medical advice, which at Cheltenham, where we propose being on the 1st of December, is always at hand.

With respect to the Catholic question, the deep and heartfelt interest which I have uniformly taken in this great cause makes me anxious that a portion, at least, of the ministers of the established church should prove to the world their attachment to the cause of civil and religious liberty; and I am of opinion, that if we can procure petitions from the clergy of three or four counties, the point bids fair to be carried in the course of the next session of parliament; and those who step forward upon so important an occasion cannot justly be accused of commencing "*offensive measures*," when engaged in the *defence* of the most inalienable right of many millions of their fellow Christians and fellow subjects, which has been, year after year, unwisely and

unjustly withholden from them. Adieu! Kind love.

Yours, &c. &c.

Very truly,

H. NORWICH.

Somerleaze, Oct. 24, 1822.

P.S. James will write to you soon.

In the course of this year, 1822, a large and respectable body of Unitarian Dissenters addressed the Bishop, complimenting him upon the mild and tolerant spirit which always distinguished him and did honour to his profession. Mr. Edward Taylor, of Norwich, was at the head of those who were delegates for the address,—a gentleman of the soundest understanding, the most virtuous conduct, and the most exalted talents and acquirements, though in a situation of life only a manufacturer, not gifted as to riches with wealth, but with a moderate competency. The Bishop replied in his usual spirit of toleration and liberality.

The Bishop always decidedly disapproved of any thing like force put upon opinion; and it would seem indeed that the repeal within these few years past of the act of parliament inflicting punishment on those who disputed the doctrine of

the Trinity, is a tacit admission of the justice of the principle which the Bishop always maintained ; and when we are assured that against the Christian religion the gates of hell shall not prevail, it will at least become a question whether the most virulent publications against religion will not be better answered by silence, than by the terrors of imprisonment and legal punishment : for terror can never make converts, though it may increase hypocrites ; at the same time, it must be allowed that it is very dangerous to permit any notions of any kind, which vice or madness may start, to be made current at a cheap price among the lower order of people, who have little leisure for speculation, or comparison of ideas, and who are prone to read, if merely from curiosity, any thing that has the air of novelty. And Cicero, who was very much of a latitudinarian in his speculative notions, and appears more inclined to the school of Plato and their modest doubts, than the decision of Zeno or the disciples of Epicurus, has left this sentence in record :—“ *Sit hoc principio* “ *persuasum civibus, dominos esse omnium rerum* “ *ac moderatores deos, eaque, quæ geruntur,* “ *eorum geri ditione, aut numine ;*”—a sentiment which seems to imply the advisability of protecting, from any very rude assault, the general impressions among men of their dependence on

the Deity. But at all events it is the opinion of a learned divine, that a religion, or any thing else under the name of religion, which inspires rage and cruelty, must at least in one respect be worse than atheism; because an atheist may still retain the common sentiment and impression of humanity which such a barbarous religion affects; and if there be any cases in which restraint upon men may for opinion be justifiable, it is where either the encouragement of such opinion would destroy the foundation of moral virtue, as in the utter denial of the distinctions between right and wrong; or where that can be proved which has been asserted,—though it cannot now be proved of the Church of Rome, that it is misled by a superstition mixed up therewith, which, being a pretended superior principle, easily controls and subdues the natural sense of moral duty, even when strength of appetite and vice, and prejudice of other kinds uniting their utmost efforts, are not able to suppress it.

Cobbett's Norfolk Petition—Clergy petition against Catholics, recommended to be met by a counter-petition.

My dear Henry,

“ Though fallen on evil days,” it is consoling to observe that the spirit of freedom still

breathes among us; witness that generous emotion which is displayed in every part of the kingdom in behalf of *Spain*, and of a moderate parliamentary reform at home: nothing, I think, but the measure which you propose can efface the impression made by the disgraceful proceedings at the Norwich county meeting.

With respect to the Catholic question, I yesterday received a *petition from Archdeacon Oldershaw*: this circumstance removes the objection made by some of our friends, to “throwing down the gauntlet” *before* the appearance of an adversary. It is my intention to be at the Brunswick Hotel in Hanover-square a few days previous to the coming on of the business in the House of Lords, which probably will not be for some time to come: should we meet in London, I shall rejoice; but at all events, I hope to be at Norwich *early in May*; and never again will I depart from it: I am now too old to take long journeys, and your mother is too infirm; she is however somewhat better, but still very far from being well. Your disinterested uncle has left a magnificent legacy of £100 to his only sister: you and I know him too well to expect any thing liberal from him. Sir Eyre is indisposed, and has been so for some weeks past: with all his faults, he is worth fifty of his late brother.

If there should be any difficulty in sending the petition to me, it will be very safe in Lord Nugent's hands; and the intercourse between him and Glover is constant. Adieu! Give my kind love to Fanny, not forgetting the young one.

Yours, &c. &c.

Most truly and affectionately,

H. NORWICH.

Cheltenham, Feb. 14th, 1823.

The proposal alluded to in the preceding letter was, (when Mr. Cobbett had beaten all the whigs in Norfolk by a hundred to one, and passed the celebrated Norfolk petition,) to call another county meeting, with a view to try the strength by real votes of freeholders and county inhabitants, separate from the Norwich inhabitants, over again;—a proposal to which the High Sheriff readily expressed his willingness in the public papers to accede, but which Mr. Coke and most of the leading whigs declined, in favour of hundred meetings; to which some public objections, which Archdeacon Bathurst made, led the way to a coolness and misunderstanding between the editor and Mr. Coke, which unfortunately never have been removed.

Thanks the Archdeacon, his son, for the efforts in favour of the Catholics—latter part alludes to Lord Castle Coote's will again.

My dear Henry,

Accept my cordial thanks for your very friendly exertions in support of a cause, which from policy, from justice, and from Christian charity, is entitled to the good wishes of every liberal man. * * * and * * * are, I suspect, a little displeased, because they were not, *in the first instance*, consulted respecting the *time* and *mode* of bringing forward our petition; but there is no end of such jealousies: Glover* has, in my opinion, stated, with great force and perspicuity, the leading arguments on our side of the question; I shall therefore be happy to present and recommend what he has so ably stated: or should any other statement be deemed preferable, provided it contains the same sentiments, I shall be ready to lend it my feeble aid. I will attend to what you say about Lord Nugent, and your excellent friend and neighbour.

* This petition is framed in the chapel at Holkham, and is signed by Archdeacon Bathurst, Archdeacon Glover, and about forty-eight other clergymen, not one of whom have been ever *noticed* by the whig government. It was written by Archdeacon Glover, and is very able.—*Ed. July, 1837.*

Did you ever hear of any thing so unpardonable as Lord Castle Coote's will, considering the small share of her father's fortune, which your good mother ever received? and you will be surprised to be informed, that, in addition to his neglect of *her*, he has been equally regardless of *yourself*, of *James*, and of *Robert*; for should *his son* and *young Eyre* die without issue, he has bequeathed his *funded property*, which is very large, about £30,000, to your three sisters: this however is, *humanly speaking*, a legacy of no great value; but the inattention is the same.

Grace improves, but very slowly; and is become so thin, you will hardly know her: she will probably not accompany me to London. We shall meet at Norwich early in May, after which time even the Pope will hardly induce me to take another winter's journey, or indeed a summer one. Adieu! Kind love to Fanny, not forgetting the young one.

Yours, &c. &c.,

Very truly,

H. NORWICH.

Cheltenham, Feb. the 20th, 1823.

His grandson Henry's entry at Sandhurst—Remarks on a military education—Verses by the late Rev. William Crowe.

My dear Henry,

Your account of dear Henry, and of his first introduction at Sandhurst, does great credit both to yourself and to him: he will, I have no doubt, amply repay you for your kind attention to his future happiness and welfare. The plan of this military institution appears, from what you say, to be well calculated to form the mind of youth to those habits of obedience and regularity, which are useful in every walk of life, and necessary in the army. You may rest assured that I will not fail to speak to the Duke of Glo'ster when I go to London, where it is my intention to be about the 23rd or 24th of this month; and after staying a fortnight there, I shall proceed to Norwich: if we meet, I shall rejoice. Should you want fifty pounds, I can easily spare it.

During my stay at Cheltenham I had great pleasure in seeing a good deal of an old New College friend, Butson, Bishop of Clonfert: he showed me some spirited verses of Crowe's, addressed to the King of France—they are at present in manuscript; when I have leisure to write them

out, you shall have them ; in the mean time I will give you one stanza as a specimen :—

Where are thy men at arms, they once who moved
 So lively to the warlike trumpet's call ?
 And where thy chiefs, thy marshals all—
 Heroes in many a field of glory proved ?
 As flowers, that all the darksome night
 Close themselves up until the day-star rise,
Then ope and turn, as worshipping his light,—
So these, in sullen slumber now reclined,
May soon awake, when *Thou* shalt find
 Their worship and their service turn'd, and gone
 Toward their own day-star, the young Napoleon.

My eyes begin to fail me. Adieu ! Kind love to Fanny, and to her amiable sister, and my worthy friend Mr. Mackenzie.

Believe me, with great truth,
 Your affectionate father,
 H. NORWICH.

Great Malvern,
 April the 5th, 1823.

Your mother and Tiny desire to be very kindly remembered.

Mem. The Duke of Gloucester was very kind afterwards about the Archdeacon's son.

CHAPTER XV.

From 5th of April to the end of the year 1823—Death of the Bishop's wife, with particulars and epitaph.

ON the 16th of April, 1823, died the wife, the friend and partner of the Bishop's life and fortunes. In a short note announcing this melancholy intelligence to his eldest son, the writer of this memoir, who was then at Bath, the Bishop says :—

April 17th, Malvern.

My dear Henry,

Your very dear mother died yesterday without a struggle. Having been indebted to her kind attention for the principal part of my happiness during three-and-forty years, I need not say how severely I feel her loss.

It appeared from the remainder of the note, that as General Bathurst, his second son, was with

him, he did not feel it necessary for the Archdeacon to go to Malvern, as he could do no good ; and perhaps, after such a misfortune, the mind feels timorous at first as to the sight of any object which may revive the shock that the heart has experienced. But the Archdeacon had received so many proofs of unabated, continued, and tenderest affection for his incomparable mother, who for the first twelve years of his life reared him with a care and difficulty to which alone he owes his continued existence ; who watched anxiously over his growing years, and never lost an opportunity of honest counsel or kind attention and affection at any period of his life, to the latest hour of her existence ;—this son had too warm and tender a recollection, and which will never expire while he has breath, of those tender and unremitting anxieties transferred from himself to his little ones, and for their common welfare, from this affectionate parent, not to hazard even the disapprobation of his father, by hastening down, in time at least to prove at the last melancholy scene of mortality that she had left sons who loved and honoured her, and who could, whatever pain it cost them, supply the place of him at the grave who was indeed chief mourner, but for whose aged frame it would have been too terrible a trial to have been present, when she who had

been his solace, his joy, and his faithful friend and companion for so many years, was laid down in the dust. O! let those who have felt the tender ties of gratitude and affection, who have pictured to their minds and traced again the scenes of early kindness and protection, of support, of tenderness ;—let them judge what must have been felt by his amiable brother, the General and himself, (his brother Robert, then alive, arrived a few hours too late for the funeral,) when at eight o'clock in the morning on Tuesday the 22nd of April, they met, at the foot of the stairs of the inn at Malvern, in quiet and solemn silence, the coffin of such a mother, and walked to the church after it. The tolling of the bell was scarcely heard,—stupefaction supplied the place of repose, which was undisturbed till they entered the church ; the minister, Mr. Card, walking before,—when the solemn and slow mourning tone of the organ seemed to unloose the sinews of the heart, and make them shut again. But a sense of feeling, and, above all, a confidence in a future state, when we shall meet again, checked the ebullition which threatened ; and passing by the vault, which seemed to yearn like hell, the two sons took their stand in the pew while the psalm and lesson of the burial service were read ; and returning then to the grave, and repeating aloud the

Lord's Prayer after the minister, during which the dear General seemed to labour in spirit most heavily, the two sons bade the last farewell to the mother of their being in this world; and having prayed fervently to God for strength, prayer, fervent prayer supported them: and there is no doubt whatever, from experience, that the Author of our reason and faculties does strengthen and purify them in a special manner, in answer to our prayers on certain occasions, when we most deeply feel and acknowledge the want of superior aid. But we must not imagine that on every slight occasion God is to help our faculties: the ordinary degrees of his grace, given to all men on all occasions, are sufficient, under the common circumstances of life, if we will apply them in earnest; and is it not to tempt God, and to become enthusiasts, and relax the efforts that we of ourselves ought to make, to expect that God will do all for us, if we do nothing for ourselves?

The Bishop and his daughter (now Mrs. Thistlethwayte), who had retired the evening before the funeral, to a quiet house about two miles distant, returned after the funeral: they seemed to have collected their natural force of mind, and cheered and comforted the mourners by the self-command which they now evinced.

After dinner, the Archdeacon, and Mrs. H. B., who had attended the Archdeacon, and whom in the hour of trial he always wished to have by him, proceeded on their return through Gloucester on their way to Bath : the evening was fine, and the moon shone bright ; and the sympathies kindled by the solemn scene could not do otherwise than enkindle fresh feelings, showing that nature has no cause long to boast of its fortitude or energy ; and that it is from uncommon help alone in awful seasons, when our faculties are not absolutely stupified with sorrow, that we bear up as we ought. The sorrowing son looked to the moon with all the ardour of imagination of younger days, and could fancy that to that quiet planet fly the spirits of the good for rest, when the troubles of life are past, till summoned to rejoin their bodies at the last great day. What indeed becomes of the spirit after the dissolution of our mortal body, until the resurrection day, does not seem clearly revealed, nor is it necessary to know ; but as it is not clearly revealed, it is at least not impious to indulge in pleasing conjectures.

On the Sunday previous to her dissolution, did this tender and affectionate parent, as if conscious of her end being very near, write in her little pocket-book some memorandums of her affection ;

in one of which she spoke of her husband as her "angel husband."

On the Wednesday following the insertion of these memorandums, this most affectionate mother breathed her last; and if there is one trait of character more indicative of a great, good, and amiable mind than another, it may be allowed to add this; namely, that notwithstanding the harsh treatment of her father towards her, which was such that the Bishop's sister, Mrs. Manifold, who was the companion of her early life before marriage, has been known to say, that out of her own small pittance she found it necessary to lend her a trifle to buy common conveniences, when the Dean her father was rolling in luxury and wealth, so little did he allow his daughter;—notwithstanding all this, and the deferrings, delays, and obstacles which the same father raised to her marriage with a man so much better than himself, never did her children hear one word of complaint or reproach against her father escape her lips. But she is gone to Heaven, and there will the divine influence expand her father's soul towards her,—saved, yet, we trust and believe, through God's grace and mercy viewing with a favourable eye his other qualities; and there at last will he receive into his arms, with unmingled

and unreserved affection, the dear daughter whom he appreciated not enough on earth.

The editor may seem on this topic prolix, but he will only say what the late Public Orator of Oxford, Rev. William Crowe, said, when taking an excursion in his annual speech at the theatre, in praise of his old schoolmaster, Dr. J. Wharton, "*Veniam dabit academia et ignoscet pietati nostræ.*"

The following is the epitaph which the Bishop inscribed upon one side of a marble tablet over the vault where his wife was deposited, leaving on the other side of the tablet room for his own epitaph, and in the vault room for his own coffin.

H. E. S.

Quod mori potuit

GRATIÆ BATHURST, uxoris dilectissimæ

HENRICI BATHURST, Episcopi Norvicensis,

Cui peperit octo filios et tres filias,

Et cum quo concordissimè vixit

Quadraginta et tres annos.

Gratè memor tam perjucundæ consuetudinis,

Monumentum hoc conjugi mortuæ

Superstes maritus extrui curavit;

Et ipse, vitâ functus, cineres suos

Requiescere exoptat

Juxtâ cineres, de se optimè meritæ, uxoris;

Cujus inter multas et raras virtutes

Præcipuè enituerunt

Ergà maritum amor inmutabilis,
 Ergà liberos tenera et mitis indulgentia
 Et indefessa usque ad extremam vitæ lucem sollicitudo,
 Ergà amicos ex animo amicitia,
 Ergà pauperes effusa liberalitas,
 Ergà omnes comitas et benevolentia :
 Accessit his virtutibus
 Pia ergà Deum reverentia,
 Quâ non leviter imbuta mens ejus
 Diutini morbi dolore
 Infracta usque ad mortem remansit.
 Obiit Aprilis 16. A. D. 1823:

Reflections on a book recommended by the Duke of Sussex.

My dear Henry,

For a month past I have amused myself, at the *desire of the Duke of Sussex*, with reading a publication which is very popular in Paris, and, I am informed, in *almost every part of France* ; the title of it is, ' *Essai sur l'Indifférence en Matière de Religion, par M. l'Abbé de la Mennais.* ' This divine is certainly a man of considerable talents and great learning, but a most violent ultra both in politics and in religion,—so much so, indeed, that apparently his leading object is to persuade his countrymen to follow the example of Spain, and bring back the glorious

days of the Inquisition, and *civil despotism*. Should he succeed in this laudable attempt,—

Erunt etiam altera bella,
Atque iterum ad Trojam magnus mittetur Achilles;—

poor, fat Louis will once more be reduced to the necessity of taking refuge in England. Adieu! Remember me very kindly, and

Believe me

Most affectionately yours, &c. &c.

H. NORWICH.

Somerleaze, Nov. 27th, 1823.

To Mrs. H. Bathurst—Another trial spoken of.

My dearest Fanny,

In spite of a heavy post, I take up my pen to assure you, that if any thing could add to the pleasure I shall have in seeing Henry, it will be the circumstance of his being accompanied by you; pray therefore do not disappoint me.

What think you of Sir Eyre's will? My respect and affection for the memory of his amiable sister make me silent; but I must say, that the conduct of the two brothers, in the last act of their lives, is a tissue of injustice not often

paralleled. Peace to their ashes. Adieu! Kind
love to the two Henry's, Fanny, &c. &c.

And believe me

Truly yours, &c. &c.

H. NORWICH.

Bath, December the 24th, 1823.

CHAPTER XVI.

Includes a period from the end of A. D. 1823 to the year 1827—Southey—and a reflection on the subject of an ecclesiastical establishment.

MY DEAR HENRY,

Nothing can be more just than what you say respecting the expediency of keeping up, in a certain degree, our intercourse with the world, especially with old friends and near relatives; and this, not only for our own sakes, but on account of our children. "*Oblitusque meorum, obliviscendus et illis,*" is the language of spleen or of low spirits; and whatever our vanity may lead us to think, the latter will follow the former very quickly, and we shall be left alone, to brood in solitude over our want of exertion, and our consequent insignificance.

Southey's 'Book of the Church' is much praised by those who think that their own particular ecclesiastical establishment of Christianity

is of much more consequence than Christianity itself: the principal object of this publication seems to be, to keep alive those rancorous feelings of animosity which are already but too prevalent among Christians of different denominations, and which it would be far more wise and more benevolent to bury in eternal oblivion, as the greatest possible enemies to public welfare and to private happiness. History is a noble study, if pursued with a wish to enlarge our minds and to cure us of prejudice; but such volumes as I am now speaking of cannot but have a directly opposite effect.

It is my intention to leave Bath on Monday the 29th; and after passing a week at Cheltenham, I shall proceed to Malvern, and then to London, where I hope to be on the 14th of April: about the middle of May, both inclination and business will lead me to Norwich for the remainder of the year. Adieu! Kind love to Fanny, not forgetting the young ones.

Believe me

Sincerely and affectionately yours, &c. &c.

H. NORWICH.

Bath, March 21st, 1824.

Letter from Tryphena Bathurst (now Mrs. Thistlethwayte) on the loss of Miss Rosa Bathurst, the Bishop's granddaughter, and daughter of Benjamin Bathurst, who disappeared on his return from Vienna in 1809.

My dearest Fanny,

It is with deep sorrow I have to confirm to you the dreadful intelligence, conveyed in the papers, of the fatal accident which has deprived us all of poor dear lovely Rosa: a letter from poor Lady Aylmer describes the accident; it seems they were taking their usual ride, accompanied by Rosa, having been led by the French Ambassador, the Duc de Montmorency, who was riding with them, into a path near the Tiber, where they had never been before: poor Rosa's horse refused to go forward where there was no danger to be apprehended, but backed down a very steep bank into the river, which was on that day *so* tremendously increased by the melted snows from the mountains, that no *human aid* could save her. Lord Aylmer, at the extreme risk of his life, made the attempt twice; but his efforts were useless, and he narrowly escaped drowning, owing to the rapidity of the stream: 50 guineas' reward was offered for the discovery of the body, hitherto without success.

I can dwell no more on this fatal event. Kind

love to Henry and the children, and believe me

Ever yours most affectionately,

T. BATHURST.

We stay here till Monday se'nnight.

Fisher's Hotel, Cheltenham, April 3rd.

Extract of a letter from the Bishop, in which he notices the estrangement of his old friend Earl Bathurst.

* * * * * Affairs in Ireland portend a stormy session of parliament: it is thought that there will be a partial change of administration: Canning is working slowly but surely; he has got rid of * * * * *. During Lord Bathurst's short stay in town, I passed half an hour with him—very kind; but his manner had, notwithstanding, much more of the minister in it, than, considering our former friendship, there ought to have been.

Ever note, Lucilius,

When love begins to sicken and decay,

It useth an enforced ceremony.

So it seemed to me was the case with him; but perhaps I may expect too much. Adieu! Kind love to Fanny and the young ones. When the former recovers her strength sufficiently for you to

leave her with comfort to yourself, and with satisfaction to her, I shall be glad to see you. Adieu!

Yours, &c. &c.

Sincerely and affectionately,

H. NORWICH.

London, Dec. 23rd, 1824.

Answer to Archdeacon Oldershaw respecting a petition which he proposed against the Catholics, and wrote to say he should trust to the Archbishop of Canterbury: dated March the 30th, 1825.

My dear Archdeacon,

It would give me very sincere pleasure to comply with any request of yours, and will gladly do so now, as far I mean as it is in my power to comply, consistently with the rules, which persons in my situation are obliged to regulate their conduct by.

You will judge for yourself respecting the choice of a person for presenting your petition to the House of Lords: to the Archbishop of Canterbury, it is impossible that there can be any objection on my part. Independently of the sincere personal regard which I have for his Grace, his high character and conduct upon all occasions entitle him to the respect and affection of every member of the established church; your petition,

therefore, cannot be in better hands: were it placed in mine, I should probably say what I think; which is, that the clergy do themselves no credit, and render no service either to the cause of religion or to our ecclesiastical establishment, by stepping forward as advocates for persecution; for persecution I shall never cease to call our treatment of the Roman Catholics, as long as I possess the use of my understanding. Adieu! Notwithstanding we differ so widely in opinion, believe me

Sincerely and affectionately yours, &c.

H. NORWICH.

To the Archdeacon Bathurst, with an allusion to his constant wish to exchange his English preferment for an Irish see—also to the Catholic question—to a pamphlet—and to the heavy loss of a dear little girl, recently experienced by the Archdeacon.

My dearest Henry,

It will give me great pleasure to forward your views in Ireland to the utmost of my power, whenever an opportunity of doing so presents itself.

The late division of the House of Lords has created an *alarming degree* of discontent in Ireland, and not much less among the English Catholics: the King is as decided an enemy to the

cause of poor Ireland, as the Duke of York. "It will not, and it cannot come to good." Reflection upon the subject makes me nervous.

Your pamphlet I am anxious to read upon many accounts, but principally with a view to obtain information, which I stand in need of. This morning I will call upon Ridgway, who is, I suppose, the publisher: there has been no advertisement,—at least, I have seen none.

The loss of those we love is almost the only evil which we do not bring upon ourselves; and for this evil there is, happily, a remedy, which brings with it a consolation which nothing else affords,—I mean, the firm conviction of our *mutual recognition* in that world from which sorrow and mourning will be for ever banished. Were it not for this conviction, the remainder of my days would not only be few but evil, after the severe loss I have sustained. Adieu! Kind love to Fanny.

Yours, &c., most affectionately,
H. NORWICH.

London, May 25th, 1825.

P. S. I leave London this day fortnight.

From General Pepe to Archdeacon Bathurst, in which the General mentions a speech of the Bishop of Norwich in favour of the Catholics.

My dear Sir,

I am very grateful to your kind invitation, and I would have been very happy in passing some days in your agreeable society ; but for this season I must deprive myself of such a pleasure, because on Saturday next I shall leave England for the Netherlands. If you have any command for that country, honour me with your letters at Bruxelles.

I shall take leave of your father ; but if I should not have the pleasure to meet his Lordship at home, I pray you to inform him, that in my humble opinion I have thought his speech, in favour of the Catholics, the best that has been made in the House of Lords. On my return to England I hope to find him and you in good health, and as happy as you deserve to be. In the family of Alderman Wood everybody have charged me to present their regards.

I ever remain, my dear Sir,

Most sincerely and respectfully yours,

G. PEPE.

95, Park Street, 23rd June, 1825.

Mr. T. Rowe, Methodist Preacher, to the Right Rev. the
Lord Bishop of Norwich.

Lynn, November, 1825.

My Lord,

I trust your Lordship will pardon the application of a stranger, on a subject of a very powerful interest to the parties concerned; and as the case has occurred within the diocese of Norwich, I hope this application will not be esteemed intrusive or irregular:—an infant child, in the parish of Middleton, near Lynn, who was baptised by the Rev. Mr. Rowland, a Wesleyan minister, died on Tuesday the 8th of this month: the minister of the parish, the Very Rev. Dean Wood, has refused burial, on the ground of the infant being unbaptised: a copy of the register of the child's baptism, and also of Sir John Nicholl's judgment on a similar case, have been delivered into the hands of the minister, and yet the Very Reverend Dean persists in refusing burial to the child. If it were a doubtful case, or if there were any convenient ground on which the remains of the unoffending infant could be deposited, the parents would not have troubled your Lordship on the occasion; but as the body is turning to a mass of putrefaction before the eyes of its surviving relations, and they have no where to bury

the dead out of their sight, they earnestly entreat your Lordship's interference.

I remain, my Lord, &c.

THOMAS ROWE.

The Bishop's Answer.

Sir,

“Days,” says Job, “should speak, and multitude of years should teach wisdom.” How far Dean Wood may accede to the truth of this remark, as applicable to me, I dare not venture peremptorily to decide: but I am inclined to believe, from the intercourse which has passed between us upon former occasions, he will not be indisposed to pay some deference to the opinion of a brother clergyman who is now in the 82nd year of his age; and I have no hesitation in stating most unequivocally what that opinion is. The decision of so well-informed a civilian as Sir John Nicholl justifies, I think, any minister of the established church in pursuing that line of conduct towards dissenters of all denominations, which candour, and meekness, and moderation, and Christian charity must make him anxious to pursue on all occasions, especially upon so interesting a one as that mentioned in your letter, and in behalf of an individual belonging to a sect

remarkably peaceful, pious, and inoffensive. Be so good as to show the Dean what I have written; he may perhaps be induced to respect my suggestions.

I am, Sir, yours, &c.

H. NORWICH.

To the Reverend Thomas Rowe,
Wesleyan Minister, Lynn.

Refers to a curacy.

My dear Henry,

With respect to the renewal of Mr. Ward's licence, his case is certainly a strong one, but there are many others equally strong, and it is next to impossible for any clergyman to perform divine service, as it ought to be performed, who undertakes the care of *three churches*; he must unavoidably, in my opinion, discharge his professional duty either in a *hurried, indecorous manner*, or at an *inconvenient hour*, at least during the winter months. Upon this ground I took the trouble, some time since, to address every officiating minister in my diocese who came under the description here mentioned, and they almost all admitted the justice of my remark: I will however *postpone* the business in question till I have obtained more accurate information, but I cannot engage

to go further, as it is very unpleasant, and not very creditable, to be accused of partiality. By the way, what is become of Mr. Loftus's curacy? I shall be asked about it when Lady Bathurst returns to town.

Upon the subject of your coming to London with Henry, you are the best judge: it appears to me unnecessary, and will be attended with additional expense, but do as you like; I will contrive to accommodate you both, should you decide to brave another winter's journey.

Give my kind love to Fanny and your fireside. Adieu!

Believe me

Your affectionate father,

H. NORWICH.

London, Jan. 18th, 1826.

Cobbett.

My dear Henry,

Your friend Cobbett is, I hear, much mortified at not being noticed in the smallest degree by a single person during the late interesting discussion respecting the *currency*, in the House of Commons: for my own part, if "ignorance is bliss," I am the happiest man breathing, as it is impossible that any one can be more com-

pletely in the dark than I am upon this complicated subject. I expect James every hour. Having several letters to answer, I must conclude, —though it was my intention to write more at length when I begun, but a heavy post hinders me. Adieu! Kind love.

Yours, &c., truly,

H. NORWICH.

London, Feb. 15th, 1826.

N. B. The Bishop calls Cobbett the Archdeacon's friend, because the Archdeacon admired Mr. Cobbett's talents and agreed with him on the currency question.

Cobbett and the Currency.

My dear Henry,

Although the business of my laborious diocese becomes every day more and more beyond the strength of a man in the eighty-second year of his age, and obliges me very frequently to drop my epistolary intercourse, even with my nearest relatives and oldest friends; yet I am determined to take up my pen, for the purpose of telling you that Henry is well, and, as far as I can judge of his character and disposition, likely to be a source of comfort and credit to you and to his excellent mother. The General has your note, and

will, I dare say, attend to the contents of it : his wife is come to town for a few days ; they return home next week : she is at Lady Castle Stuart's.

The subject which at present engages the attention of all thinking men continues to be as much beyond my comprehension as ever ; and the opinions of those who from mature consideration and long experience are most competent to form a sound judgment, are various : time will discover the truth. Your arguments and Master Cobbett's do not dissipate the mist which hangs over my bounded sight. The subscription for bringing him into parliament goes on very heavily. Within the walls of St. Stephen's Chapel he would be a very second-rate performer, and one of Canning's quizzing speeches would soon dismiss him to the "tomb of all the Capulets." Notwithstanding his effrontery and laborious efforts to force himself into notice, his name is never mentioned by individuals of either party but "with a sigh or a smile." Your friend Lord Dudley spoke uncommonly well the other day. The poor Bishop of Durham is, I fear, not likely to recover. Adieu ! Kind love.

Believe me

Your affectionate father and friend,

H. NORWICH.

London, March 16th, 1826.

A kind letter from Earl Bathurst, who had given a letter of introduction to the Bishop's grandson, (now Captain Bathurst, of the Scots Fusileer Guards,) to Sir George Don, Governor of Gibraltar.

Stanhope Street, Sept. 1st, 1826.

Dear Bishop of Norwich,

I enclose you a letter which I have just received from Sir G. Don, from Gibraltar, with a good account of your grandson.

Yours ever,

BATHURST.

CHAPTER XVII.

The year 1827—Public affairs—Ministry of Mr. Canning—
and Lord Lansdowne.

From the Bishop to the Editor of the 'Norwich Mercury'—
The Catholics again.

Cheltenham, Jan. 16th, 1827.

Dear Sir,

The good sense and liberal principles by which the 'Norwich Mercury' is distinguished, convince me that you will gladly embrace an early opportunity of laying before the public the enclosed 'Appeal to the People of England.' In this Appeal Mr. Wise states with so much temper and moderation the injuries and insults experienced by the Roman Catholics for many years past, that his sentiments cannot fail to make an impression even upon the minds of those, who in defiance of truth and justice obstinately persist in imputing to six millions of their fellow subjects and fellow Christians reli-

gious tenets repeatedly and solemnly disavowed by them, and practices, of which, by the uniform tenor of their conduct, they most unequivocally evince their abhorrence.

Under such circumstances, if some expedient be not devised of sufficient power to cast out that evil spirit of intolerance, by which too many, in other respects excellent, clergymen are possessed, and not a few laymen also, of the same description, there will be very soon no peace in Ireland, nor in any part of the united kingdom; for it is idle to imagine that the bulk of a long oppressed and persecuted people can possibly consider allegiance without protection in any other point of view than as a mere matter of discretion.

Yours, &c., sincerely,

H. NORWICH.

To R. M. Bacon, Esq.

The Catholics again.

My dear Henry,

Almost every post brings me so many letters, that, notwithstanding my habits of punctuality, I now and then throw into the fire papers which ought to be preserved; this has been the case with Mr. Macdonald's note, but it is not of much consequence. Will it be advisable to pub-

lish a *second time* the Address, &c. &c.? If you think, that, accompanied with my letter to Mr. Bacon, it is likely to call the attention of the public to this important subject, give your directions accordingly : I will gladly pay the expense of its insertion in the 'Mercury;' here they charged me four pounds for the publication. I shall rejoice to see you and Fanny here, but *April* is rather late, as my house is up on the 1st of *May*. Adieu! Kind love.

Yours, &c., truly and affectionately,

H. NORWICH.

Cheltenham, Feb. 8th, 1827.

On Mr. Canning's accepting office.

My dear Henry,

In the course of a long life few events have ever given me more pleasure, than that which now occupies public attention. Mr. Canning does not want to be told that a *permanent* administration cannot be formed by his *personal friends*, without the aid of such men as Lords Grey, Lansdowne, Holland, &c., by whom I hope soon to see him surrounded. Adieu! All well.

Believe me

Your affectionate father,

H. NORWICH.

Cheltenham, April the 15th, 1827.

The same subject.

My dear Henry,

In the present state of public affairs it is impossible to form any thing like a *satisfactory* opinion respecting the *final result*; but even such a *quid-nunc* as myself may venture to say, that if Mr. Canning attempt to form an administration out of his own personal friends and a few determined tories, without having recourse to some of the leading whigs, his reign will be short, and we shall very soon be at sea again. I hope for better things. Fanny is quite well, and so indeed we all are.

Believe me
Your affectionate father,
H. NORWICH.

Cheltenham, April 19th, 1827.

P.S. Thanks for your letter. Lord Leitrim has called twice or thrice, and desired me to thank you for your Sermon, &c., with which he was much pleased.

Malvern reflections—Mr. Canning's administration.

My dear Henry,

This spot and the scenery around it bring to my recollection many endearing circum-

stances, and many also of a very different description : upon the whole, however, my sober mind is soothed, and in no disagreeable manner, "when I think of the days that are past." The place itself is, if possible, more beautiful than ever ; and its charms, particularly at this season of the year, are heightened by a more than usual exuberance of bloom upon the apple and pear trees, which makes the fields below my window look so cheerful, that without the aid of poetry the "valleys," literally speaking, may be said to "laugh and sing." Fanny, who is an unaffected, sensible, well-natured girl, scampers over the hills upon a donkey, and enjoys herself exceedingly. A considerable degree of weakness, but unattended either by pain or sickness, obliges me to give up *long* walks ; which is perhaps no great misfortune, as I am still able to use my legs for an hour at least without fatigue.

With respect to what is passing in the political world, we must wait a short time before it will be possible to form any decided opinion : I can only say, that in the course of a long life, I never recollect an instance of so much rancour and acrimonious party violence as the parliamentary debates have exhibited during the last three or four days. Mr. Peel's *first* speech did him great credit ; in the *second* he seems to have lost sight

of his usual moderation and good temper, of which Sir F. Burdett took advantage most ably. Mr. Canning has nothing to fear in the House of Commons: in the upper house he will have enough to do if Lord Grey and Lord Lansdowne do not exert themselves. At all events, one important point is gained by the removal of men, the far greater part of whom set their faces against all improvement, and appear anxious to hinder England from keeping pace with the rest of the world, not only in adopting more enlarged views of civil and religious liberty, but of education, commerce, &c.

Phillida and Emma propose coming to me in July. Adieu! Kind love. In the course of a week I shall be at Norwich.

Believe me

Truly and affectionately yours, &c.

H. NORWICH.

Malvern, May the 8th, 1827.

Mr. Canning's administration again alluded to—Importance of the side Lord Grey might take.

My dear Henry,

It is not necessary for me to give any caution respecting the care of dear Fanny's health; your own knowledge of her value makes

it superfluous. I shall therefore only say, that it will give me great pleasure to see her and you at whatever time is most agreeable and convenient to both of you ; and also the young people, when they feel disposed to prefer Norwich to Creak.

The new Dean of Hereford called upon me last week ; he seemed gratified by the manner in which Canning had appointed him to that situation. If Lord Grey can be prevailed upon to join the administration, or at least not to oppose it, the day is ours ; otherwise the struggle for power will be violent, and the issue doubtful. The bare possibility of a tory administration makes me sad. Adieu ! Remember me affectionately, and

Believe me

Truly yours, &c.

H. NORWICH.

Norwich, July 8th, 1827.

Nov. 1827. And now arrived the time when the fidelity of party connexions was to be tried, and it was to be seen how far popularity in long opposition was likely to make amends for the serious disadvantages under which the Bishop's family laboured by 'twenty years' neglect from government—a neglect which, from the previous kindness of the noble head of the Bathurst family, would certainly appear not to have been possible,

had the Bishop drawn together in public life with his patron.

The opposition party, as it was called, had, by the union with a large body thereof, at least with what was termed the liberal tories, obtained a share in the councils and patronage of the country. The Earls Grey, Albemarle, Fitzwilliam, Jersey, and others did not indeed go with the tide, but fell back upon their experience and the conviction that a party distinct in general principles, and especially having avowed the necessity of constitutionally pressing certain measures, connected with those principles, upon the Sovereign, even though the Sovereign should be understood to be personally objecting thereto,—that a party avowing (and, in the judgment of the writer of these remarks, justly avowing,) that the personal wishes and opinions of the Sovereign of a free country ought to yield both to his constitutional advisers and the fairly ascertained feelings and wishes of the community, of which the King is the chief magistrate, though with certain undoubted hereditary rights and titles;—considering that such a party could not coalesce to advantage and honourably with those from whom they essentially in such great points differed, or practically seemed to differ, and especially with Mr. Canning, (on whom, from various considerations of the past,

though possibly too mistrustful and unforgiving in spirit, these honourable and high-minded noblemen placed no reliance,) they refused to be a party to the coalition, and, upon the accession of Lord Goderich to power, they continued apparently to entertain the same reluctance to be a party to a coalition whereby the government was to be maintained by the power and support of the old opposition, while their principles and exercise of power in the disposition of patronage and forwarding certain measures were to be held in abeyance.

And of the truth of this, in the instance of the Bishop of Norwich, the subject of these memoirs, a specimen now strikingly occurred.

In the November of this year, 1827, died Dr. Tomline, Bishop of Winchester. This event seemed to afford a fine opportunity to prove whether the principles of the administration were sufficiently decided to induce the whig Peers just alluded to, and the Commons of eminence, such as Sir R. Ferguson, Mr. Hume, &c. &c., to put a fuller trust in them, by the immediate appointment of the Bishop of Norwich to this rich and distinguished see. The King, however, being desirous of appointing thereto Dr. Sumner, then Bishop of Llandaff and Dean of St. Paul's, Dr. S. accordingly was appointed to the see of Winchester. The valuable deanery of St. Paul's was now

vacant ; and upon the first accession of Mr. Canning to power, the deanery of Durham had been vacant by the death of Dr. Hall, which had been given to Dr. Jenkinson, Bishop of St. David's and Dean of Worcester, it being considered that this gentleman, being Lord Liverpool's cousin, was entitled, in preference to any other, to this mark of royal favour. But Winchester was given to Dr. Sumner, as the deanery of Durham had been given to Dr. Jenkinson ; and the deanery of St. Paul's continued a commendam to the see of Llandaff.

So that after a proscription of the Bishop of Norwich and his family for twenty years, on account of his principles, and the sacrifice of not only the influence but unavoidably also a share of the confidence and kindness of his friend and pupil, and one who had been a most liberal patron, Lord Bathurst ; and who would have continued such (as may be seen from what passed previous to the debate in 1808) had public differences and opinions not intervened, when the avowed champions of these opinions, for which he had singly among the Bishops, since the revolution, sacrificed so much ;—upon the accession to power of an administration, to which the friends of Catholic emancipation, as a body, might have dictated any reasonable and honourable measure,

inasmuch as without their support the administration could not have been kept together for a week,—was Dr. Bathurst (the toast on public occasions of the former opposition now in power, the true hero of liberal principles in church and state, and the martyr to them,) sacrificed by the continuance of that proscription, which many of those connected with power, and acquiescing in the new arrangements, had so severely condemned in Lord Bathurst and the late government, both on private and on public occasions: whereas, certainly there is far less reason to blame for neglect the patron whose political conduct he opposed, than those when in power whose political opinions he supported. For the writer of these pages cannot ascertain that even a single remonstrance was made in favour of the Bishop of Norwich, and against the neglect of him, except by the Earl of Albemarle to Mr. Brougham, whom the noble Earl authorised to assure the government, that he would give them that support which he had hitherto withheld, if they would afford a pledge of their principles, by appointing the Bishop to the deanery of St. Paul's.

Neither was this all;—not only were arrangements made in favour of others, (who shall not now be named,) without one single mention of the Bishop of Norwich, or his interest, by the party

now acceding to rule ; but Dr. Jenkinson, Bishop of St. David's, (a comparative boy and school-fellow of Archdeacon Bathurst,) acknowledged, when questioned upon the subject, that had Dr. Sumner not been appointed to Winchester, he (Dr. Jenkinson) was intended by the administration, and nominated to receive that splendid appointment, in preference to an aged bishop who possessed the claims here shown, and who, as he declares in a letter to his son, would have accepted the situation for the sake of his family,—and to whom, from a diocese three times larger in extent and number of parishes, viz. that of Norwich, it would have afforded a merited and honourable, a valuable and comfortable reward of his extremest years, and have made him prelate of the city (Winchester) where he had been educated, and with which he had associated the invaluable remembrances of youth ; and from having been a Wykehamist, he would have been both a true, natural, and acceptable person for appeal, as visitor, to two of the most distinguished seminaries in England. And let it be distinctly and authentically understood by those who would allege that it could not be supposed that the Bishop of Norwich, at his advanced period of life, would wish to change his situation,—let it be distinctly understood that it was from authority

(though not by his son who writes this memoir) intimated to a cabinet minister, Mr. Sturges Bourne, that such an arrangement as that here alluded to in the appointment to Winchester, would be acceptable to the good Bishop on account of his family.

That these circumstances caused at least a momentary uneasiness in the mind of the Bishop of Norwich, the following letter will sufficiently show.

CHAPTER XVIII.

A.D. 1827 continued—Lord Goderich and his ministry.

My dear Henry,

You recollect, I have no doubt, Swift's additional beatitude,—“Blessed is he that expecteth nothing, for he shall not be disappointed :” fortunately for me, I have adopted this beatitude invariably during the course of a very long life, and even in the sanguine hours of unsuspecting youth : at *eighty-three years of age*, there is little merit in saying, as I do most sincerely, with “honest Erasmus,” when he was not near so old, “*pecuniâ non opus est, et dignitas mihi nihil aliud est quàm sarcina equo collabenti.*” Notwithstanding this, I would have accepted the see of Winchester for the sake of *my family*, had the offer been made me ; but I have good reason to believe, that the name of Bathurst was never mentioned by a single member of the cabinet during the many ministerial conferences which have taken

place respecting the ecclesiastical arrangements ; so little weight is attached to our principles by worldly politicians, under whatever description they may happen to come. Adieu ! Remember me kindly to Fanny, and

Believe me truly
and affectionately yours, &c.

H. NORWICH.

Bath, Nov. the 25th, 1827.

The Archdeacon never suppressed his sense of his father's claims in his correspondence with him ; and feeling that both himself and his brothers were at least as much entitled, as others forward in life, to consideration, he never ceased to urge the Bishop to enforce them. Whether from these or other considerations, he cannot certainly say, but within a few days after the above letter the Bishop addressed Lord Goderich as follows :—

Bath, Nov. 30th, 1827.

My Lord,

Having no claim whatever upon your Lordship, excepting that which any man who stands in need of assistance has upon a benevolent mind, you will of course pay no attention to my

letter, should the application contained in it be in your judgment unreasonable.

In the course of a very long life I have never been able to lay out of my professional income * a single shilling for a numerous family of children, though I have been engaged as a clergyman full sixty years, and have uniformly discharged the various duties of my station to the best of my abilities. At eighty-three years of age, I can upon my own account have nothing to wish for on this side of the grave; but for the sake of those near and dear relatives to whom I have alluded, I feel it incumbent upon me to leave nothing undone which may prove of service to them. I have two sons in the Church, and one in the army, all of whom are men of acknowledged talents and exemplary conduct. Should it be in your Lordship's power to assist these meritorious individuals, you will much oblige one who has for many years, and, he may without vanity add, most unjustly, been passed by,† solely in consequence of his

* This is true; for what was left principally arose from accumulations of an insurance for £2500 in the Equitable Office, which was meant to replace £2500 sunk of private fortune.

† See instances of Canterbury, Durham, London, Winchester, Ely, &c.

deep-rooted attachment to those liberal principles, of which your Lordship is considered as a cordial friend. I am, with sincere respect,

Your Lordship's, &c.

H. NORWICH.

Lord Goderich's answer showed good feeling and candour; and his Lordship freely confessed, not only that the Bishop's request was not unreasonable, but that he (Lord G.) felt anxious to give it effect; and decided circumstances afterwards, known to the Archdeacon, give the strongest reason to believe, that though the patronage of the army was with others, the patronage of the Church would, had Lord G. remained minister, have been extended in favour of the Bishop's family in some conspicuous manner. But it is impossible to refrain from remarking, that the opening sentence of the Bishop's letter to Lord Goderich implies an unnecessary contradiction to the substance of the letter in which that sense of his claim is advanced, which is unnecessarily declined in the preamble, with more good breeding perhaps than strict correctness. There was also in Lord Goderich's answer one expression which could not be correct, viz. that his Lordship was pressed by many *similar* claims; for

it is impossible to point out a churchman, since the revolution, so circumstanced, as by such evident sacrifices to have established similar or at least equal claims.

Whatever excuses may have occurred under this government, with regard to bringing forward the Bishop's sons in the Church, no excuse can be offered as to the neglect of the Bishop himself: and it will be seen from the perusal of his Life, that the Archdeacon, the Bishop's eldest son, had then for fourteen years filled a situation of high respectability in the Church, with as much credit at least as men in similar situations, and in public and private had zealously, if not powerfully, supported the same views and operations with his father. He had indeed for some years not been on terms with Mr. Coke; but this arose, and still arises, purely from a conviction on his own part, on clearest evidence, that a cordial reconciliation could not take place; and the Archdeacon considered that nothing short of a cordial reconciliation is, in any case of difference with a former friend, worth a moment's consideration. Temper on both sides probably led much to these results: but the Archdeacon feels himself, on the whole, perfectly clear of any responsibility, as to the continuance of such a state of things, with all due respect be it said to Mr. Coke's many respectable qualities.

The Bishop's other son in the Church, Mr. Robert Bathurst, the whigs perhaps might object to, as having been always what is called a tory. But a worthy and talented individual, whatever be his politics, and the son of the Bishop of Norwich, would, it might be supposed, not be proscribed by the whigs of England, if it were only on account of his father's respected merits.

It would be unfair to withhold, that both Lord Holland and Mr. Coke wrote to the Bishop, expressing their regret at the conduct of the administration with regard to the see of Winchester : but if the exertions which the former had been making for the Rev. Sidney Smith, and the earnestness which the latter had displayed for the advancement of Dr. Maltby and Archdeacon Glover, although both very deserving objects, had been primarily evinced for the Bishop's interests, the display of feeling would have been more likely to be attended with some effect. And it is indeed a warning and lesson to his children, while it is unavoidably a source of mortification, to reflect, that the *whigs in general*, of the higher orders, evinced on this occasion an uncommon proof of apathy and indifference as to the interests of the only Bishop who for ages had sacrificed so much for popular principles, as Dr. Bathurst had sacrificed. From many of the tory order, the writer

of these memoirs received assurances of their sorrow and disgust.

Nothing however seemed to ruffle, for any period of time, the serenity of the good Bishop; and when the Archdeacon went to him at Bath, he appeared to have recovered himself from his former feelings, expressed in his letter addressed to the Archdeacon on the appointment of Dr. Sumner; and it was delightful to see him cheerful as a bird in the company of his sons and daughters-in-law, and happy, though his three daughters being all married and absent, in seeing his young grand-daughter, the Archdeacon's eldest girl, about eighteen years old, derive advantage and pleasure from his society and situation; by means of which, as residing in his house, she derived in the company of an old man of eighty-four all the conveniences and advantages, from a place like Bath, of improvement and amusement, without an hour of uneasiness or pain from any requirements usually attendant upon the infirmities of age: but she is one, like her grandfather, of whom the world is not worthy.

During the year 1827 the Bishop had only one opportunity of giving his vote in parliament, which he gave by proxy on the Catholic question in favour of the new administration of Mr. Canning: and thereby, though this was not his

object, he certainly deprived the government even of the last, and, had it been otherwise, insufficient plea for continuing the proscription of himself and his family: in the same manner as the excellent and truly pious ornament of an establishment, the Honourable and Reverend Edward Grey, continued to suffer proscription (which the generosity of the Duke of Wellington alone first so creditably removed) upon a bare maintenance of £300 a year clear for twelve children, under an administration with the effective force of which (the whigs) Earl Grey had so long acted as the chief leader, but to the constitution of which, he, on those principles which had hitherto bound whigs together, objected; under an administration, who as a body seemed only agreed in one thing, as their practice evinced,—the desertion both of friends and principles; while at the same time there is reason to believe, that individuals like Lord Goderich and Lord Lansdowne still had their good and amiable feelings, though too loosely perhaps about them, and only wanted decision to give a better character to the government.

It is to be presumed that great difficulties lay with the Court, and perhaps the Sovereign. But the personal will of the Sovereign is a delicate rule of law, according to whig principles, so as to fetter a minister who has the power of remaining

in office or of retiring, as the Duke of Wellington, it is well known, has proved in his conduct as minister of the Crown.

During the year 1827 the Bishop's eldest son made application to Lord Lansdowne to forward his views in Ireland; which application was not received certainly in that cordial spirit in which the noble Marquis had written the year before, when the Archdeacon corresponded with him on the subject of a clerical petition in favour of the Catholic claims. When however it is remembered that the Honourable and Reverend Edward Grey, the late worthy brother of Earl Grey, was left at that time to pine in poverty and distress, with a very large family, others who were then neglected may console themselves that they did not fare worse than that worthy man, who, had not the Duke of Wellington afterwards given him the living of St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, would have remained much longer in obscurity, and little short of great distress. There is no way of accounting for such conduct, except that behind the throne the high-spirited Earl had enemies then, who persecuted himself and even his family; but whether such unconstitutional concession on the part of whigs who were in power, as that of giving up the head and prince of their party to justify such resentments can be excusable, may

fairly be doubted: and whether whigs who could in like manner, from any such course, sacrifice the Bishop of Norwich and his family so far as even to let a young man like Dr. Sumner be placed over the head of the Bishop of Norwich in the see of Winchester, and not be guilty of the grossest ingratitude and impropriety, to say the least, the world may judge.—“As to the good Bishop, for himself indeed, if he have in any thing served his country, and prized it before his private advantage, even the general acceptance thereof, and the strongest marks of gratitude now, can yield him no other profit at this time than doth a fair sunshine day to a seaman after shipwreck, and the contrary no more harm than an outrageous tempest after the port obtained.”

CHAPTER XIX.

A. D. 1828. Dr. Blomfield.

IN 1828 succeeded the administration of the Duke of Wellington; and the Bishop of Norwich wrote to Lord Lansdowne, to proffer the noble Marquis, then no longer in power, the proxy which he gave him while a minister of the crown: and if the Bishop's proxy did not appear in favour of the Dissenters, upon the repeal of the Test and Corporation Acts, it was only because Lord Lansdowne considered the success of the repeal sufficiently secure without it; and, indeed, Lord Lansdowne said, that he was much obliged, and would avail himself of the offer of the proxy if wanted, but that at the present no such occasion appeared to offer: and the new Bishop of Rochester, when the Bishop of Norwich was at Bath, at first appeared to decline the general offer of the proxy, which was tendered to him as Lord Lansdowne's friend and Bishop, though he (Dr. Murray, the

Bishop of Rochester) did afterwards apply for it on the Catholic question. The Bishop of Norwich, during this session, was only once for a few days in London, when, on presenting the Catholic question, he declared his satisfaction at the late repeal of the Test and Corporation Acts, and hailed it as the dawn of civil and religious liberty on a more extensive scale.

Early in the month of November, 1827, in consequence of an attack on the Bishop of Chester (now Bishop of London) by the 'Times' newspaper, (unfounded in its nature, so far as the accusation was concerned, of the said Bishop having complained of the Bishop of Norwich playing a rubber of whist,) a violent altercation took place between the different writers of the daily press respecting the real subject of dispute; to allay which, the Bishop's eldest son, the Archdeacon, caused to be inserted the following statement in the 'Times':—

“ Archdeacon Bathurst will be greatly obliged to the Editor of the 'Times,' if he will, as soon as possible, insert correctly the following statement of the affair between the Bishop of Norwich and the Bishop of Chester.

To the Editor, &c.

Sir,

As owing to the conduct of some injudicious friend, or of some concealed enemy, to either the Bishop of Norwich or the Bishop of Chester, (if it be possible that the former can have an enemy,) a long dissertation has taken place respecting a difference between these two Bishops, I feel that it will be interesting to the public, and just to all parties, to state all particulars material to the understanding of the question; and therefore I venture to trouble you with an account, containing the history of the case from original documents.

The first communication on the affair took place in a letter from the Archbishop, No. 1, with an enclosure, No. 3, from the Bishop of Chester: it was not received while at cards, as is impudently insinuated in one of the newspapers, (for the post arrives in the morning,) but while my dear and honoured father was straining his eyes, which he employs to the last dregs of his existence, and while exercising with a weak bodily frame his still vigorous understanding, over the pages of Hoadley, or Jortin, or Jeremy Taylor, his favourite authors.

I leave to your indignation, and that of the

public, the attacks made on such a man—they are beneath notice.

No. 1.

Letter from the Archbishop of Canterbury, dated Addington,
July 28th, 1827.

My Lord,

I received the enclosed letter from the Bishop of Chester last week : your Lordship will see in this instance the mischief that belongs to the practice of giving orders, without titles to them.

It was probably unknown to your Lordship that Mr. Purdon had been rejected as a candidate for orders by the Bishop of Chester : but here lies the basis of the mischief ; because if a rejected candidate in one diocese can obtain orders in another summarily, without title, in violation of the canon, the discipline of the Church, as it effects ordination, is utterly defeated.

Your Lordship, I am sure, will take this admonition in good part, and give it the attention it may deserve.

I have the honour to be, my Lord,
Your faithful friend and servant,
C. CANTUAR.

No. 2.

The Reply of the Bishop of Norwich.

My dear Lord Archbishop,

It is impossible that an admonition from you should give offence to any one, because upon all occasions the good sense and good feeling with which your admonitions are accompanied, entitle them not only to attention and respect, but also cannot fail to secure to them the effect which they have in view.

I will not trouble your Grace with a statement of the case alluded to by my "angry brother" Bishop, but rest satisfied with assuring you, that I did not know the Bishop of Chester had rejected Mr. Purdon, who is a very well informed and exemplary young man, and nearly related to one whose memory I shall never cease to love and revere.

I am your Grace's faithful servant,

H. NORWICH.

No. 3.

The Bishop of Chester's Letter to the Archbishop.

Palace, Chester, July 20th.

My Lord Archbishop,

I think it my duty to lay before your Grace the following statement :—

A young man named Purdon, a native of Ireland, but lately resident at Carnarvon, having been disappointed in his expectations of being admitted by me as a candidate for holy orders, went to the Bishop of Norwich, by whom he was ordained Deacon on Trinity Sunday last, without any title whatever, and thereupon came into my diocese and began to officiate without my license or permission. I have prohibited him from doing any duty within my diocese; but I think it right to make a complaint to your Grace of this violation of the canons on the part of the Bishop of Norwich, the frequent repetition of which would obviously render ineffectual and nugatory those regulations which I have adopted for the supply of fit and able men to serve the churches in this diocese. An instance of nearly the same kind occurred last year.

I have the honour to be, my Lord,

Your Grace's most obedient humble servant,

C. J. CHESTER.

Being much interested, for reasons underneath stated, in fully understanding this question, as a son of the Bishop of Norwich, the Archdeacon some time afterwards addressed a letter to his Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury, of which the following is an extract :—

My Lord,

I am in possession of a letter from the Bishop of Chester to your Grace, touching the admission of a young man, Mr. Purdon, into orders, which letter your Grace sent to my father the Bishop of Norwich, together with a letter from yourself, importing, simply upon Dr. Blomfield's letter, an admonition to the Bishop of Norwich, upon *ex-parte* statement, &c.

Permit me, my Lord, as it is my intention hereafter to publish this transaction to the world, together with other particulars of my father's life, if I survive him; and if I do not survive him, as it is my intention still that these matters shall be given to the world, permit me, with the sincerest respect for your Grace, and with a sincere general admiration of your conduct and character as Primate of all England, to ask your Grace for an explanation (if you will condescend to give it) whether the letter which you wrote to my father,

on enclosing Bishop Blomfield's letter, was intended to be a positive and unconditional reprehension of my father's conduct, or merely a declaration of your opinion, (supposing Dr. Blomfield's letter to be a correct and full statement of exact particulars,) and whether you consider it as a matter essential to church discipline, that all bishops should reject an individual whom one bishop has, without stated objections on moral grounds, rejected? as it appears to me to resemble rather a sort of courtesy due from one magistrate to another, in the exercise of his temporal office, according to which one magistrate may grant a warrant legally after another has refused it, though courtesy and general respect to authority would certainly induce such a one to correspond first with the refusing magistrate, and ascertain his reasons. I beg to subscribe myself, with the greatest deference, your obliged servant,

H. BATHURST.

“ The substance of the reply was plain, thoroughly polite, and to the purpose; viz., that the admonitory letter was written under a conviction that a candidate for orders who had been rejected by the Bishop of Chester had been admitted to orders by the Bishop of Norwich, without pre-

vious communication with the Bishop of Chester, and without a title in the diocese of Norwich ; and to this view of the question his Grace's observations were confined : that it is, however, competent to any bishop to ordain a candidate who has been rejected by another bishop, after due inquiry made into the causes of rejection, and a conviction that the party is qualified in every respect whatever to be employed in his own diocese.

“ It does not appear how it is possible to do either the Bishop of Norwich or the Archbishop justice, without giving fairly this communication so far ; and I have only to add, that with all submission to the excellent and amiable Archbishop, it does not appear that any offence, beyond an unintentional breach of courtesy, and a misunderstanding, perhaps, as to what could be termed a rejection on the part of the Bishop of Chester, was committed by the Bishop of Norwich ; as the canon does not forbid a bishop to ordain without a title, but subjects him merely to the risk of being obliged in some way to provide for a candidate ordained without a title,—or, in other words, without a curacy at least provided for him.

“ Public differences between clergymen are to be greatly deprecated ; therefore I now leave to the world to decide on this affair, which had

better have been never noticed in the public prints.

“ I am, Sir, your, &c.

“ HENRY BATHURST.”

“ Creak, Dec. 6th.”

“ To the Editor of the Times, &c.”

Letter of Mr. Purdon, the father of the young man.

To the Editor of the ‘ Courier.’

Sir,

I am sure your candour will induce you to attend to the following statement, partly in reply to a paragraph which I have just read in your paper of the 3rd instant. It is said, “The Bishop of Chester, finding great inconvenience to have arisen from the admission to orders, by the Bishop of Norwich, of a person in the diocese of Chester, to whom he, from the want of qualification on the part of the individual, had refused such admission, did represent, as his duty required him to do, such inconvenience to his ecclesiastical superior,” &c.

I beg to say, that the above is not a correct representation.

The young gentleman alluded to is my son: he never resided in the diocese of Chester. His

qualifications for ordination were,—a university education and degree in Dublin—being a distinguished and successful scholar—having attended the regular and appointed divinity courses—being furnished with the university testimonium and the certificates of respectable clergymen—and being a truly moral and religious character ; upon which qualifications, the Bishop of Norwich ordained him.

It is a mistake to say the Bishop of Chester refused him admission to orders : my son never applied to his Lordship for ordination ; but it was mentioned by a person, who, I believe, had applied without my son's knowledge, that his Lordship objected generally to ordain from the Dublin university.

While my son was absent from this place, and in Norwich, a respected and reverend friend of his was applied to, to procure a curate for a rector in the diocese of Chester ; and he obligingly recommended my son, in consequence of the good opinion he entertained of his conduct and attainments.

The Bishop of Chester thought proper to prohibit the young man from officiating in his diocese, because, as his Lordship writes, he had “ obtained ordination without any title.”

I do not intend, in the most remote degree, to

question either the power or the motive of the right reverend Prelate: his ability and zeal in support of the established church are deserving of more praise than I can pretend to offer. All I wish to do is, to defend and vindicate a young person of real merit and unassuming manners; and I am sure the Bishop of Chester will be as ready as any person to do justice to the young man, and prevent any misapprehension as to the cause of his decision in this case; and that while his Lordship asserts his own authority, he will not allow any person to suffer unjustly.

If it be not convenient to publish the whole of what I have written, I hope and request you will give the substance, contradicting the assertion that my son was a resident of the diocese, that he was not qualified, and that he was refused admission to orders by the Bishop of Chester. I give you my name and residence. I have enclosed a copy of the above to the Bishop of Chester.

Your most obedient,

S. PURDON.

Carnarvon, North Wales, Dec. 5th.

The friends of "justice to Ireland" will see in the above affair how continued a martyr the Bishop of Norwich was to the cause of Ireland,

having exposed himself, in fact, to all this turmoil, that he might show as a bishop his respect to the university of Dublin, to be equal in matters touching professional fitness for orders, to qualifications derived from Oxford or Cambridge ;—a conclusion surely only just and liberal.

Letter from Archdeacon Bathurst to Bishop Blomfield.

My Lord,

I have directed the editor of the 'Norwich Mercury' to send you one of his county papers this week. You will there see a full account of your conduct towards my universally (with the exception of Bishop Blomfield) respected and beloved father, the Bishop of Norwich.

And I trust, on consideration, that you will take my friendly advice, and write to the Archbishop of Canterbury, publishing your letter, and admitting your conduct to have been precipitate and without sufficient ground, or, at least on the whole, that which you wish you had not done : this will be much the most manly way and the most Christian, and will tend most effectually to wipe away the impression of an arbitrary and violent temper, which I really think your conduct is calculated throughout the business to give ; and I am sure your better judgment will lament, that

you have led the Archbishop of Canterbury to adopt a tone of remonstrance with your brother Bishop so much older than yourself, which the nature of the case, to say the least, did not necessarily call for.

And now, my Lord, allow me to tell you, that I have myself stepped forward on public occasions eagerly, without having I think reaped any material advantage, and having perhaps made myself many enemies—enemies which hitherto do not seem to be counterbalanced by friends of corresponding warmth; and, believe me, your zeal to become a public champion, though in a different way, and force yourself, as in fact you ultimately have been the cause of forcing yourself, on the public notice, will neither add to your happiness nor your credit.

I am, my Lord,
With every Christian wish, yours,
H. BATHURST.

To the Editor of the 'Norwich Mercury.'

Sir,

Having since I wrote the following letter been in possession of an article in the 'Morning Post,' charging the Bishop of Norwich most falsely with a general carelessness in ordination

of ministers in the Church, I think it right to send you the whole correspondence, and to observe that his Lordship's examining chaplain, Mr. Valpy, is reckoned remarkably strict in his examination of candidates; and, although his Lordship has thought it right to relax from general rules as to academical degrees in some instances, (the Bishop of Chester's own brother and cousin among others,) I defy the world to point out an individual on whose character even any question has been raised, except in a case which I shall not wound the Bishop of Chester's feelings, or those of the individual alluded to, by further noticing. The editor speaks of the Bishop of Norwich being in his dotage: let the editor call on the Bishop, and see and judge if at the age of eighty-three he be not equal, as to the possession of faculties, to any Bishop on the bench of any age.

Mr. Purdon, the father of the young gentleman about whom all this question has been raised, shows in his letter, inserted in last Saturday's 'Courier,' that there was no rejection of his son by the Bishop of Chester, for the best possible reason,—that no application was made to him! and the Bishop of Norwich, with that respect which is due to a sister university, having considered a Dublin degree a sufficient warranty for ordination, chose to accept this young man, *who*

was a connexion of his family, without the formality of a title, and to incur the risk which the canon imposes, of finding employment or maintenance for those ordained without a title. For this crime, the young man is proscribed in the diocese of Chester, and refused a license to an eligible curacy, to which he had an opportunity of being nominated. This is not all; the Bishop of Chester thought it necessary, in consequence of the indulgence granted to the young man by the Bishop of Norwich, to make a formal complaint of the Bishop of Norwich's conduct to the Archbishop of Canterbury: and having now given a true account of this affair, I appeal to the public, whether a more officious, pragmatical, and inquisitorial exercise of episcopal authority has been resorted to since the memorable days of Archbishop Laud; and I only lament that the excellent Archbishop should have been induced to give his judgment, and convey an admonition to the Bishop of Norwich upon the *ex-parte* statement of the Bishop of Chester, and without a previous investigation of facts. As to the instance to which the Bishop of Chester alludes, of a similar ground of complaint on a former occasion, I need only add, that the circumstances attending it were at the time explained, and the charge refuted through the medium of a private friend; and

that such charges were proved to be as groundless as those which have occasioned you the trouble of this letter.

I am your humble servant,

H. BATHURST,
Archdeacon of Norwich.

Previous to the Archdeacon sending the copy of the account inserted in the 'Times' newspaper, here alluded to, the Archdeacon received a letter from Mr. Brougham (now Lord Brougham), written in the hurry of business from the Court of King's Bench, requesting him (the Archdeacon) to lay the real state of the case before the public: and the Archdeacon has reason to believe that Mr. Brougham corrected the press for the 'Times,' and wrote the leading article; as when the Archdeacon, about this period, sent some game addressed to the editor of the 'Times,' he received an answer of thanks from the 'Editor of the Times,' addressed to the Archdeacon, and in Mr. Brougham's *hand-writing*, (or a hand-writing so exactly similar as to be surprising,) though the note was written in the third person,—'The Editor,' &c.

The Bishop of Norwich's opinion of his son's interference on this occasion was very gratifying: it was expressed in the following letter:—

My dear Henry,

Nothing in my opinion can be more fair and unexceptionable, than your statement of the squabble between the Bishop of Chester and myself, notwithstanding the insolent comment of ‘John Bull;’ though, upon the whole, there is perhaps more true dignity in silence than in any defence, however unanswerable. “Varro Sucrensis affirmat, Lucius Æmilius Scaurus negat; “utri creditis, Quirites?” was the reply of a noble senator of Rome to an insignificant adversary who attacked him. This is aristocratic language you will say, and so it is certainly; but character is not worth having if it depend upon the hasty assertion of every heated opponent.

I am glad to find that you consider Lord Goderich’s letter *as I do*—very friendly, and calculated to excite reasonable expectations in my relatives: that you may by the event be justified in forming these expectations, is the cordial wish of

Your affectionate father, &c.

H. NORWICH.

P. S. I have not leisure to say more. Kind love.

Bath, Dec. 19th, 1827.

The letter to the editor of the 'Norwich Mercury' was written in great measure, indeed all the most forcible parts, by the dear and valuable brother of the writer of these pages, the Reverend Robert Bathurst; and though not on further consideration inserted at the time, is now given, to show the warm interest which his amiable and honourable mind took in any thing which concerned the character of his father, though he did not in certain questions of public import agree with him.

The Bishop of Chester (now Bishop of London) has, the Archdeacon has reason for believing, done the Archdeacon all the harm in his power at Court and elsewhere, for the exposure which was made by him of Dr. Blomfield's conduct; but the Archdeacon defies him, and holds him at nought, if it be so.

CHAPTER XX.

1828 continued—State of public affairs.

My dear Henry,

I shall rejoice to see you *about the time* you mention; but it is not in my power to mention *precisely* the time, because the engagements at Southwick hinder Tryphena from naming any particular day for coming to Bath: when I know more, you shall hear from me. You are heartily welcome to deduct £50 from the £400 I have advanced, if this small sum should enable you to make Fanny and Anna the companions of your excursion.

With respect to politics, nothing ever was so extraordinary at this present state of public affairs: out of this chaos, order may *possibly* arise, and such order as you and I wish for,—but the odds are against us. Adieu! Kind love.

Yours, &c. affectionately,

H. NORWICH.

Bath, Jan. 13th, 1828.

The King—An opinion as to his Majesty George IV.

My dear Henry,

I shall be rejoiced to see Fanny, yourself, and Anna *about* the time you mention; the *particular day* is of no consequence. Knowing the generosity of your disposition, I think it right to assure you, that the trifling accommodation, for which you are more thankful than it deserves, is not attended with the most trifling inconvenience to myself.

Heaton and Caroline continue to go on well; but “*laudo manentem*,” and I dare not be sanguine upon that point: he is certainly possessed of considerable natural quickness and very gentlemanly manners; if to these he added a well-regulated mind and a better temper, I should be glad: it is not however my intention to intimate that she is *never* to blame.

With respect to public matters, nothing can well be more alarming than the present situation of the country. A few weeks must pass over our heads before a much wiser man than I am can be able to form any *well-grounded* opinion of the result: one thing however is clear enough; it is this:—His Majesty will find, and probably to his cost, that in a King, as well as in a subject,

plain, straightforward honesty is, upon the whole, the truest policy. Adieu ! Kind love.

Yours, &c. &c.

Truly and affectionately,

H. NORWICH.

Bath, January 25th, 1828.

An opinion of Lord Grey.

My dear Henry,

“Poets shine most in fiction,” said Waller, with a good deal of address, to Charles II., who complained of his having displayed more talent in his ‘Eulogy of Oliver Cromwell,’ than in that of his lawful Sovereign: *my anonymous advocate* cannot certainly boast of *shining*, though he has all the advantage of *fiction*; for the Bishop of Chester never hinted in the smallest degree at my love of *whist*, of which he is himself an admirer.

What you say respecting Lord Grey is far from unlikely; I cordially wish it may prove true, for the sake of his excellent brother, as well as on account of the advantage which the country must derive from his unsullied integrity and unrivalled abilities.

It gave me great pleasure to hear that dear Fanny reaped both amusement and health from

her kind visit to Bath: in truth, though to a sound mind like hers the tranquil pleasures of a uniform domestic life are never wearisome, yet a little change now and then is good for us all.

About the 1st of May it is my intention to be in London for ten days or a fortnight; but I am not able to fix upon the precise period of my stay, as it depends upon circumstances over which I have no control. Adieu! Kind love to all.

Believe me

Truly and affectionately,

H. NORWICH.

Bath, March 29th, 1828.

P.S. Fanny is quite well.

Refers to ordination.

My dear Henry,

In this and in another cover are enclosed *six papers*, relating to the object which *Mr. Coll* has in view, and a letter of that gentleman addressed to you.

Our friend the * * * * * should not trouble you with an application, knowing, as he does, that not many weeks since, complaint was made of me to the Archbishop of Canterbury on account of my departure from those rules by which other Bishops usually regulate their conduct, in the important business of ordination. I feel no in-

clination to get into a fresh scrape. Adieu ! Kind love. Fanny desires me to forward her notes.

Yours, &c.

Truly and affectionately,

H. NORWICH.

Bath, April 11th, 1828.

My dear Henry,

I hear that Edward Grey is to have the late Bishop of Chester's large living in the city. God grant it may be so !

H. NORWICH.

CHAPTER XXI.

1828 continued—The heaviest trial of all.

December, 1828.

THIS year, together with the last, was most trying to the good Bishop's feelings : in 1827 he had fresh upon his mind, (though he felt it right to show the widow of his son Benjamin every attention,)—the disagreeable and notorious part which that lady (possessing many good qualities notwithstanding) appeared to have played as connected with the case of the celebrated abduction of Miss Turner by Mr. Wakefield ; and in which, although there really was much misconception, yet was there sufficient to vex the friends of those who were interested in Mrs. B. B.'s good understanding with the world.

Scarcely had this blown over, than the disputable business of the late Archbishop and Dr. Blomfield occurred ; and in 1828 the violent but

still more disagreeable publicity of the Rev. H. De Crepigny, the Bishop's son-in-law, harassed him; and still more was he harassed by the distressing state of the Rev. Gentleman's finances, materially affecting the comfort and situation in worldly circumstances of the Bishop's daughter Caroline, his wife,—a young woman of great personal and intellectual endowments.

Other circumstances also, not necessary to mention, harassed the Bishop's mind; and among them, the great desire of some preferment with a comfortable residence for his son Robert, who altogether, with a wife and eight children, had not above £500 a year clear in the Church, which with his (Robert's) liberal notions and aspiring mind, and that just sense of those claims which his talents, birth, and indefatigable exertions, and unexceptionable conduct gave him, did certainly bow down this excellent young man's feelings with much sorrow.

Repeatedly did he to his brother the Arch-deacon, with whom for years previous he had been on the most friendly and intimate terms, speak of the blasted prospects of their respective families, in consequence of the long proscription with which the Bishop had been visited for his attachment to the cause of Catholic emancipation, from

the hour when he determined on first publicly giving his support thereto, the manifest indifference and neglect shown by the whigs and liberals towards himself and family then in power in the year 1827, and the entire absence of not only respect, but all regard and pity for the Bishop's family, manifested by the great men on both sides generally: he felt that even he himself, though not answerable for the same political line which the Archdeacon took, was equally cast off, and that nothing could abate the cold and heavy resentment and proscription with which government determined to mark every member of the family; ay, even the General himself, the Bishop's second son, whose services and talents had for several years in the military line, and whose virtues and abilities in civil life, entitled him to the most signal attention,—the military secretary of the Duke of Wellington, and the companion in arms of the brave men in Egypt, Spain, Portugal, Copenhagen, and Friedland.

It is in vain to say that the Rev. Robert Bathurst was better off than so many in his profession, though not provided for as he could wish;—it is in vain to say that the Bishop was lucky to be able to provide so well for him, considering that he had already provided well for his eldest son. Poverty and riches are comparative: views,

just expectations, and personal feelings arising from circumstances not unreasonable in themselves, will vary the degree of satisfaction which situations give; and both the Archdeacon and his brother Robert had set out without private fortune, which from the first embarrassed both of them, and still to a great degree embarrasses the former.

Eight young children, with whom the Reverend Robert Bathurst also saw himself surrounded at the age of 32 years, alarmed his apprehension, and awakened, if not his ambition, at least his earnest desire of a larger means of provision. His excellent father had omitted no opportunity (unless the archdeaconry of Sudbury, hardly worth sixty pounds a year be excepted,) of helping or forwarding his views, but in vain: and even when the Bishop felt himself from circumstances bound to bestow the archdeaconry of Sudbury on Mr. Glover, the pecuniary loss was compensated by giving Robert two situations in the ecclesiastical department, worth together as much as the archdeaconry; and when the new administration of 1827 was in power, the Archdeacon, though in vain, did all he could to help Robert as well as himself, which his brother well knew, and Lord Goderich (now Lord Ripon) can bear witness to.

Be that as it may, considerations, arising from these circumstances combined, most certainly weighed very heavily on this excellent young man's mind, and in a great measure produced that depression of spirits, which, co-operating with physical affection, arising from having overworked himself in the early years of life,—first, by study, and afterwards by taking pupils, when married at twenty years of age, to assist his income,—bowed down his mind so far as to lead the way to that fatal catastrophe which occurred on the night of the 25th of December, 1828, and which seemed *mettre le comble* as it were to the dear Bishop's trials.

The account given in the ' St. James's Chronicle ' of the day was substantially correct, except as to the unfortunate person being a widower, he having left a wife and eight young children.

How did the Bishop bear this heavy stroke of calamity after so many other blows of fortune ? He bore it with a firmness and dignity which will ever make his fortitude respectable. It was the morning after the event, as it would seem, when first he was informed that his son was found weltering in his blood in his bed-room, having been quite dead apparently for many hours ; no one having suspected any such thing, or having heard or noticed any thing extraordinary, except that

not long after going to bed a noise was heard in the room where the deceased slept, as of something tumbling down, which no doubt was the deceased falling from the loss of blood, from a deep wound which he had inflicted with a razor on the left side of his neck. When first this event was stated to the Bishop, his frame received an evident shock, as appeared from an inflammation which soon after settled in his foot, and threatened danger; but after having put his feet in warm water, he sat down and wrote to his family composedly of the event which had happened, and, as will be seen from his letters, soon resumed the usual interest which he took in the affairs of life. His feelings, it would appear, had from habit and various trials been accustomed to great control. The conduct of the Bishop upon this occasion deserves the praise which is awarded by the Reverend Mr. Walker, of Truro, in a Sermon attached to his Life, written by the Rev. Edwin Sidney, to the sound Christian in the hour of trial:—"This was what Satan judged would be an overmatch for the integrity of Job. Hast thou observed my servant Job, said God, a perfect man and an upright? Then Satan answered, Doth Job fear God for nought? Put forth thy hand, and touch all that he hath, and he shall curse thee to thy face. And surely there can be

no great question of sincerity, when in such circumstances a man can say, The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord. We do not so well know what we are till adversity of one sort or another tries us; but when upon any change we peaceably resign all our earthly expectations, and cast ourselves upon the Lord, then we may plainly see whose we are and whom we serve."

Had the Bishop any cause to blame himself? It is true that the conversation which the Bishop accustomed himself to with his sons, continually dwelling upon how little a clergyman might be contented with, after having encouraged his sons from early life to aspire greatly, was far from pleasing, and often irritated the unfortunate deceased. But let the blame rest where it ought—with that ungrateful party in the state, who so entirely, after having availed themselves of the Bishop and his services, neglected him and his family.

The Archdeacon gave his opinion to the Bishop, on hearing of the calamity,—that it arose principally from mortification at the darkening prospects of the family; the proscription, however natural, of the family by the tory party, on account of the Bishop's and Archdeacon's public conduct and principles; and the visible coldness and neglect of

the other party, when in power in 1827, towards the interests of their episcopal friend and champion ; and that scandalous neglect and unkindness shown by some distinguished individuals of that party, whose interests and principles the Bishop had served so faithfully.

The following letter was the Bishop's reply, which shows the pious resignation of the Bishop :—

My dear Henry,

The affection which I feel both for your excellent wife and yourself makes me at all times anxious to come into any plan which may be convenient or agreeable to either of you : I shall therefore be very glad to see Anna with her sister on Saturday the 17th. Tryphena is so kind as to stay with me till nearly that time.

I rejoice to hear that poor Jane is as well as under her sad affliction can be expected ; and I trust what has been done by me and her worthy father may have contributed to alleviate her sorrow. I should be much gratified if there were the same prospect for Caroline and her three boys, which is far from being the case at present ; nor will matters mend during Sir William's life. It does not appear to me that the misfortune, which we have so much reason to deplore, was in

any point of view occasioned by the cause you allude to; disease alone sufficiently accounts for it. On the 9th of February your company will be acceptable to

Your affectionate father,

H. NORWICH.

London, January the 6th, 1829.

P.S. Kind love to all.

CHAPTER XXII.

The same subject continued.

THE Archdeacon hereby declares, upon an intimate knowledge of his brother's feelings and sentiments for some years past, known also by some others to be true, that he sees no reason whatever to recede one tittle from his own alleged convictions: he well knows that the neglect and proscription of political parties of his family did hurt and wound the justly aspiring mind of his brother Robert. As far back as a twelvemonth previous, when conversing upon the struggles in which he (Robert) had been involved, and through which he was to fight his way and maintain his situation in society, and the heavy draft upon his intellectual and bodily strength,—made by the efforts of taking pupils, and seeing a young family so fast increasing upon him with very limited means, though as liberally aided by his excellent father, as the Bishop's own limited means, con-

sidering his own situation, could afford,—this excellent young man sighed one day, when lamenting the difficulties of his situation, and said to his brother Henry, “ Nothing indeed but a sense of religion can reconcile me to life.” In the course of the summer previous to his death, he wrote often to the Archdeacon ; in one letter he expressed himself in the following terms :—

My dear Henry,

I shall be very much obliged to you if you will have the kindness to preach for me at the visitation on Monday the 28th instant. I am so reduced in strength by an attack of cold and fever, that I cannot hope to be stout enough for such an exertion. I am ordered to be perfectly still and quiet for some time. I hope you will be able to comply with this request ; it will relieve me from considerable anxiety. I little thought, when I undertook to perform the task, that I should be so weak and unstrung as the time approached for its accomplishment. Jane holds tolerably well, thank God, but my little girl Cecilia is still in a very delicate state of health. With love to all your circle,

I am ever yours affectionately,

ROBERT BATHURST.

On another occasion, when the Archdeacon inquired of him whether he had any prospect of bettering his circumstances, his brother Robert replied, " I have some hopes from Mr. Goulburn, but whatever comes, if it does not come soon, it will be too late."

The Archdeacon warned his father of the suspicious and uneasy state of mind of his brother in the course of the summer, and used some expressions strongly importing his apprehensions ; and nothing could exceed the kindness and attention of the Bishop to his son Robert's situation—a kindness which in all great points seemed to redouble with the occasion as it thickened : it is said in *great points*, because the good Bishop had an irritating way of casting up how little a man might live upon, and this to his son in conversation, when his mind was irritated by his circumstances ; which did no good, and was inconsistent with the real benevolence of his heart, and the parental solicitude of his actual exertions in his son's favour. But this was a peculiarity with him through life, that he rather liked disputation, even when his heart set his actions right, in spite of verbal contradictions. Does not this little inconsistency arise from something yet uncorrected in temper, or something which untoward circumstances provoke without quelling the kindness of

the heart ? The Bishop must, on reflection, have been sensible, that his consent to the marriage of his son, (a studious and promising young man,) in circumstances advantageous to no party, was a step, like that of his daughter Caroline's marriage with Mr. De Crepigny, which as a parent he ought not to have sanctioned. But the facility of his temper, and his love of ease, and above all the sanguine complexion of his mind, and favourable anticipations which he always encouraged of the future, ruled the heart ; and to these causes we may fairly attribute the like facility with which he admitted into orders without a degree his future son-in-law, the same Mr. De Crepigny ; though, be it remembered, that there was no substantial objection, at that time, of any sort to the character or habits of that gentleman ; of whom it was only charitable, as it was not unreasonable, to expect that he might turn out a character as good as others in general. No bishop can be essentially responsible for what the candidates whom he admits into orders may turn out, unless it can be proved that he is guilty of any gross connivance at any notorious defect in conduct or fitness ; though the heavy consequences to souls is a reason of the most affecting nature, why the usual rules of strictness should be observed, so that if any thing afterwards turn out

amiss, it cannot be said that any usual precaution was omitted. But we seldom see the value of forms and fences till the great enemy of mankind has overleaped them, as Satan did the bounds of Paradise, and taken his post where he can injure.

To return however to the melancholy subject of the part of this memoir belonging to the afflicting Christmas of 1828. Nothing appeared to justify any particular alarms or precautions: on the Thursday indeed, and Friday before Robert went to London in December to his father, he came to dine each day with his brother the Archdeacon at Mr. Alderman Steward's, in Bank Street, Norwich; and in the course of the Thursday morning the Archdeacon addressed him in the street, though not in any one's hearing, upon the subject of the lowness of spirits and dejection as to the state of his fortunes and prospects, which seemed to depress his brother, and recommended him to meet the conduct, which they had a right to complain of, with indignation and contempt, and defiance rather than grief; at the same time offering to take his pupil off his hands, and to follow the rules which he (Robert) should give in writing as to study, and give him the emolument, excepting from £50 to £100 a year, (out of the 350 guineas,) just to cover any increased expense.

Robert seemed affected at this proof of regard, and said that his pupil should go to the Archdeacon (which he did) during the time he (Robert) should be in London. But in the course of what passed, when warned pointedly by the Archdeacon as to the state of his dejected feelings respecting his worldly interests, and those of his young family, which it was evident he deeply felt, he said, "Indeed you enter too truly into the state of my feelings; it is with the greatest difficulty that I can bear up against my circumstances."

After dinner, however, he rallied; and on the Friday, after dinner also, he seemed very conversible and cheerful, and told a remarkable anecdote which he had heard from the Bishop, which is worth repeating; viz. that "Sir Benjamin Bathurst, his great grandfather, and the Duke of Gloucester, Queen Anne's son, who died at the age of nineteen years and was heir to the crown, were one day together with Bishop Burnet, who went out of the room; and immediately when he was gone, the young Duke began abusing him. Sir Benjamin remonstrated, that he should abuse his preceptor behind his back, to whom he showed so much respect when present. 'Do you think,' answered the Duke, 'that I have been so

long with Bishop Burnet, and not learnt to play the hypocrite?"

The whole of Robert's conversation was equally on this day amusing and instructive, so as to banish his brother's apprehension entirely; and he went home, expressing much gratification at the time he had passed with his brother the Archdeacon, and with his behaviour to him;—a most pleasing consolation to one who so respected and loved him. Upon his arrival in London, or soon after, however, the dejection of his spirits appeared to return, though illumined at intervals so as to lull apprehensions which there was a natural unwillingness to entertain or dream of; and the melancholy event took place on the 25th of December, 1828, at some period of the night not exactly of course known, as the unfortunate person was in his bed-room by himself.

Many expressions and circumstances confirmatory of the Archdeacon's convictions of what most pressed on his mind, and aggravated the dejection thereof, might be adduced, if he thought it necessary; though unhappily he does not appear to have stated the full particulars of his embarrassments, to relieve which, if most fully known, his father and his friends would have spared no effort.

It is in vain to say such views were unsuitable

to a religious resignation and humility, under events which a true Christian minister should practise: a delicate and feeling man may easily bow to a perhaps morbid sensibility, under the conviction of having been in any way a party to having placed himself and a young wife and family in circumstances not corresponding to his views, of what they had a just right and claim to in this world; nor is it so easy for any mind to submit to the humiliation of seeing others with so much less pretension and real claim pass by him in the race of life. It would be right to submit; it would be duty, prudence, and virtue: but where there is a strong tendency to a constitutional irritability, with a high and aspiring mind sensible of its own accomplishments, talents, and pretensions, they who unjustly and without provocation neglect, and wound, either directly as to himself, or indirectly through a father, by such neglect the feelings of such an individual, which without any improper sacrifice of public or private duty they might have consulted, are in high degree responsible for the consequences; and they of the whigs in power in 1827, who neglected so basely and unworthily the good Bishop and his family, when they were bound by congeniality of principle to support him, as the only Bishop on their side who had essentially aided them, and

the only Bishop who had, in behalf of measures, &c. which they professed such attachment to, sacrificed his friends and his family, are more answerable for any uneasiness caused, and far more answerable than those who condemned him to proscription, for a fundamental difference on a great political question, which must have received countenance foreign to their convictions at least at the time, had they continued their marked patronage to this distinguished champion of civil and religious freedom; to which his patron, Lord Bathurst, (as to measures at least then in question, and asserted to be connected therewith,) and the high tories were opposed; and, as we are bound in charity to believe, on honourable conviction, that those measures would not contribute to the real freedom and happiness of the community. Though it must be confessed, there could hardly be any necessity to mark this proscription with the insult to the Bishop of Norwich, of appointing Dr. Blomfield to the see of London, as a reward, as it were, for the still reeking affront offered to this venerable prelate by a man without any one of his pretensions to merit, and not half his age.

The favourable view which the amiable Bishop sometimes took of the circumstances of his family appears to have not been as to fact, with the exception of Mrs. Thistlethwayte, borne out; unless

he meant, that, had the different members of his family exerted all possible prudence, they would have been in easier circumstances. This is true, both with respect to the Archdeacon, and possibly also Robert, and Mrs. De Crepigny, (neither of whom could be said to be in prosperity,) because the Archdeacon marrying early, and not knowing, like many others of the name, the value of money early in life, and having a family treading soon on his heels, whose merits deserved every sacrifice, has never found himself in circumstances corresponding at all to the nominal value of his preferment; and which besides, in the ordinary bearings of things, is liable to considerable and unavoidable drawbacks; so that between his private embarrassments and his necessary deductions, he has had to contend with difficulties such as some others with inferior pretensions, or at least not superior, are free from.

And how differently did the tories act towards a deceased brother of the worthy Bishop, from the conduct of the whigs towards his son! The late Rev. Charles Bathurst,—a talented, and, in the main, a good man,—a younger brother of the Bishop, was, soon after the promotion of the Bishop to the bench, involved in great pecuniary difficulties, far beyond any with which any other member of the family, except poor Mrs. De Cre-

pigny, has had to contend. The Bishop acted the part of a brother: he went to the late Lord Londonderry, who was then Lord Castlereagh and President of the Board of Control, and with great influence in India affairs; and Lord Castlereagh, with that good nature and kindness of heart which ever distinguished his personal transactions, entered feelingly into the case, and obtained the Bishop's brother an appointment in India sufficient to maintain him comfortably the remainder of his life in India, where he died. The editor is happy to have recollected in time for publication this anecdote, and that he is enabled to do justice to the kind disposition of a public character, in opposition to whose public measures he was during the noble Lord's life an enthusiast. Time, while it makes ingratitude seem more foul, and cruelty more cruel, steals the softest hue of melancholy tenderness upon recollections of humanity and kindness. Peace to the ashes of the amiable, even though the public policy, to which they may have, with intentions perhaps not inconsistent with their nature, been a party, may seem to have been severe! and where individuals are not singled out (except that, like the Bishop, they become a leading individual opposed to their policy) as the victims!

To return to the situation of the Bishop's family,

as connected with the history of the greatest tragedy of his life : the circumstances of Mr. De Crepigny could not be said even then to be good, and Robert, to eke out his income, had found it necessary to take pupils ; and whether the General, the Bishop's second son, though so distinguished for his services and virtues, and having married a most invaluable lady of rank with some thousand pounds, can be said with nine children, by those who knew his circumstances, to be affluent, it may be left for others to judge : neither could Major or Mrs. Mahon, though most respectable and prudent, and with very handsome prospects, be said to be rich, or even to enjoy beyond decent competency for their situation in life ; though it is quite admitted, that for these blessings, so far as they are bestowed, it becomes all to be thankful to Providence, and content, though not excluding fair efforts to better their condition.

If aspiring views, and mortification at prospects less bright than might be expected, tended to work upon the constitutional irritability of the Bishop's unfortunate son Robert, those who knew his talents and virtues will drop a tear over the infirmity, and be more disposed to censure those, who, professing to admire his father's principles, in any way neglected his father's family, than to

be severe upon the memory of one whose fate excited universal pain and regret among all who knew him or who had heard of him ; and if the name were to be known of the person professing most violent regards for the Bishop, who told the late Sir James Smith that Robert, because he did not follow his father's politics, had no claim on the sympathy of his father's political coadjutors, though evidently suffering a part of his father's martyrdom, on account of his father's public conduct ; and if the name of the same person were known who declared to the Archdeacon, one day, that the Bishop of Norwich had made no more sacrifice than any other man who had an opinion of his own, it would excite alike astonishment and disgust. The writer of these pages will be excused by feeling minds for having dwelt so long upon this melancholy topic of his brother's death ; but having given his conviction to the public, he feels bound to show cause for it ; and he concludes the melancholy tale of this event with a quotation from Pope, which he feels to be not inapplicable to the fate of his beloved brother :—

Whatever warms the heart or fills the head,
As the mind opens and its functions spread ;
Imagination plies her dangerous art,
And pours it all upon the peccant part :—

Nature its mother, habit is its nurse ;
Wit, spirit, faculties, but make it worse :
Reason itself but gives it edge and power,
As Heaven's blest beams turn vinegar more sour.

Upon the death of his son Robert, the Bishop gave the living of Scottow to the Rev. G. Norris, brother-in-law to the deceased ; and the living of Docking to a Mr. Bolton, together with one of the two livings which the Archdeacon held, in exchange for a living in Suffolk which the Archdeacon holds. Many have blamed the Bishop for this ; but the truth is, that the Bishop was about to give the living to a stranger, a distant relation of his wife in Ireland, out of an idea of serving one of his wife's most distant relatives, whom he never saw ; — a feeling of the most creditable kind, but which the Archdeacon thought rather romantic, and who therefore strongly remonstrated and earnestly begged him to give the living to Lord Bathurst's son, the Hon. and Rev. Charles Bathurst, or to one of two others whom he named ; which the Bishop, to his surprise, refused. The Archdeacon then, having himself no private fortune, and having always had to struggle with his circumstances, earnestly requested his father to manage the above exchange ; which he did at last, and gave Mr. Bolton the living of Oby, which the Archdeacon resigned, to take the living of Docking,

which Robert had when alive ; and Mr. Bolton's father presented the living of Hollesly to the Archdeacon, instead of Oby. It was a strong measure of kindness, but the young man Mr. Bolton is a very worthy character, and has made a good parsonage at Docking, where there was a small cottage before ; and has built an entire new house at Oby, so that the church is rather benefited than injured by the affair.

And if some are inclined to blame the Bishop, let them recollect that he, as a father, must have felt that by the line of public conduct that he had adopted, he had impaired his son's prospects in the Church (unless the whigs came in again, which was not then likely, for he never dreamt that his son would have been held by them so very cheap); and this consideration may have operated upon him to stretch a point to serve him. And this statement, though liable to remark, is the true and unvarnished tale ; and as the writer of this memoir promised to tell the whole truth where at all required, he has related that which he has often since regretted himself, as too strong a measure, even of parental kindness, but for which he again owns himself (so far as the matter is questionable) absolutely and entirely to blame ; for it was not to be wondered at, when the Bishop had lost one son through distress of

worldly circumstances, that he should be too tender of the feelings of another. The Archdeacon also, as he has done on other occasions, recommended on this occasion, before he pressed his own claim, that the Rev. James Browne, a gentleman to whom the county of Norfolk is peculiarly indebted for his zealous, professional services as chaplain to the castle jail, as well as for his services in every walk of his profession, should have the offer to one of the livings vacant, if the Honourable and Reverend Charles Bathurst had not the offer, or did not want another living; and if neither Mr. Bathurst nor Mr. Browne were to have it, he suggested Archdeacon Glover, neither of whom however at that time appeared the Bishop's object; and as for his wife's relation, he was afterwards served,—and a very excellent man he was; and dying soon after his preferment, was a great loss to all who knew him.

CHAPTER XXIII.

The year 1829 and 1830—A letter from the Rev. Mr. Selby, of Lynn, a Unitarian Minister.

My Lord,

The pleasing task again devolves upon me of requesting what I am sure will be granted—your ready and willing assistance to present or cause to be presented to the House of Lords an accompanying petition, for the extension of the civil privileges of this kingdom to our Roman Catholic fellow subjects and Christians; and in doing this, I cannot omit returning you my sincere thanks for your reply to my request, and compliance with it last session.

In again troubling you I feel greater boldness, because I do not now ask for myself or for *my party*, but for others; and most sincerely do I pray that the application may be equally successful.

Little did I expect, when, in your reply, your Lordship expressed a conviction that the just

claims of Protestant and of Roman Catholic dissenters would at last receive from the legislature that attention to which they are unanswerably entitled, that that time was so near at hand as it now appears. In its arrival every true Englishman and Christian must feel real pleasure. This assurance convinces me, that though you *privately* mourn under a mysterious dispensation of Providence, you can publicly rejoice at the approach of that day of *liberty* upon which we are entering.

With the highest respect,

Believe me

Your Lordship's obedient servant,

WILLIAM SELBY.

Lynn, February 25th, 1829.

P. S. As before, your Lordship will perceive that the petition is from a congregation of Unitarian Christians.

W. S.

Copy of a letter from the Bishop of Norwich to the Rev. Mr. Selby, Unitarian Minister of Lynn, upon receiving a petition from the Unitarians in Lynn, in favour of a repeal of the test and corporation acts :—

Bath, February 24th.

Dear Sir,

For more than half a century I have been uniformly of opinion that civil disabilities, on

account of religious tenets, are inconsistent with all true ideas of justice, of policy, and of Christian charity. I shall therefore have great pleasure in presenting your petition to the House of Lords; and this pleasure will be much increased by the conviction which I feel that the day is at hand when the claims both of Catholic and of Protestant dissenters will receive from the legislature that attention to which they are so fully entitled.

I am, dear Sir, yours, &c.

H. NORWICH.

The Rev. Mr. Selby.

P. S. Should my very advanced age render me unable to take a long journey, your petition will not be neglected, as I can without difficulty find a far more efficient though not a more cordial friend than myself to the cause of civil and religious liberty.

My dear Henry,

The day is ours. In the House of Commons last night every thing went off as well as the most sanguine of us could wish; the majority more than two to one. Love to Fanny.

H. NORWICH.

March 7th, 1820.

My dear Henry,

The enclosed came this morning by the post. Our petition was received very favourably by the house. Duke Wellington behaved nobly that day. Adieu !

H. NORWICH.

March 13th, 1829.

My dear Henry,

It gives me great pleasure to find that you have settled your business in Suffolk so much to your satisfaction. Squabbles between a pastor and his flock are not only the incessant cause of pain and disquietude to the former, but they render the discharge of those solemn obligations by which he is engaged perfectly useless to the latter, and are also apt to drive them either to a meeting-house or an ale-house, not to mention the tendency which they cannot but have to alienate public opinion from our ecclesiastical establishment.

I shall be glad to see you all on Monday next. My health, notwithstanding the north-east wind, continues tolerably good ; but my strength decreases so rapidly, that the common duties of my situation, and even the exertion of social intercourse, is more than I am sometimes equal to.

My spirits are unaltered, and I take pains to keep them so, or this crazy frame of mine soon would sink under the pressure of the smallest weight. Adieu ! Love to your circle.

Yours, &c.

Truly and affectionately,

H. NORWICH.

Norwich, June 10th, 1829.

P. S. Enclosed are two letters.

Church matters:

My dear Henry,

On Wednesday the 4th I left Southwick, and a more thorough November day no man ever ventured out in ; but Tiny's good cheer so much strengthened my crazy frame, and her kind attention so exhilarated my spirits, that I felt no inclination whatever either to hang or drown myself. Upon my arrival here I found James : the house is a very comfortable one. Few people in London, which to me is no great misfortune, as long as I can find two or three to make up my party at whist twice a week.

A plan is in contemplation, but the precise nature of it I am not acquainted with, to new-model the ecclesiastical establishment, at least in

the *distribution* of its *revenues*: the clergy will in my opinion judge very ill if they set their faces against what the public voice calls aloud for,—I mean a moderate, reasonable reform; as every fair disinterested man must allow that the most useful part of the profession are ill paid for their labours. In most counties both the laity and the clergy are obliged to make a considerable deduction from their rents this year, and probably a more considerable one *next* year. I have written to Salperton upon the subject, and shall cheerfully follow a good example. Thank Fanny for her affectionate letter, and give my kind love to her and the girls.

Yours, &c.

Truly and affectionately,

H. NORWICH.

London, 20, Upper Brook Street,

November the 11th, 1829.

On a delicate matter.

My dear Fanny,

I have barely time to say that it would grieve me much, should our excellent young friend reject, without due consideration, an offer made by a respectable young man who is justly sensible of her merit, and whose discernment and conduct do him great credit.

Emma and Lord Stuart are soon to be married : they will have a very narrow income ; but upon the whole it is in my opinion a good thing for both parties. Adieu ! Kind love.

Yours, &c. &c.

Truly and affectionately,

H. NORWICH.

London, December the 16th, 1829.

My dear Henry,

It will give me great pleasure to receive you, Fanny, and my two young friends at the time mentioned in your letter ; and I can do it without any inconvenience ; which is saying a great deal, considering the usual arrangement of rooms in a London house. I have not to give myself the trouble of going up and down stairs, as I sleep on the *ground floor*, which gives me an additional apartment.

With respect to your epitaph, the sentiments are excellent ; and the Latinity, in my opinion, classical, with the exception of two or three words, which “ non placent auribus meis ; ” but having no *Thesaurus Linguae Latinæ* here, I will not answer for the justice of my objections. The eulogy is far beyond what I have the least claim to, but it will readily be excused in a son. The

conclusion, from "Tale quod," * &c. does not appear to me *perspicuous*, but in this case too the fault may perhaps be in my want of apprehension, rather than in your expressions.

* * * * *, to my great joy, set out for Paris on Saturday : between forwarding her letters and her notes, and listening to her endless *fussetting*, she nearly turned my head, which was before sufficiently confused by heavy posts, and the sad state of Caroline and her four boys, of whom I know not what is to become if the father's life should be spared ; for as long as he exists, his creditors will seize upon the *interest* of every thing but what I pay ; and the mother, in her present nervous state, is little qualified to attend to the education of children. Adieu ! Kind love to your.

Yours, &c. &c.

Sincerely and affectionately,

H. NORWICH.

London, January the 25th, 1830.

The following is the epitaph corrected and amended, and finally approved by the Bishop. The editor has it in his possession, with these words endorsed on it—" My epitaph, written by my eldest son."

* This was altered and then approved.

30th July.

My dear Father,

Enclosed I send the epitaph corrected,
as I hope, sufficiently.

Ever yours,

H. B.

S. T. P.

Juxtâ dilectæ conjugis ossa

Jussu suo jacet

EPISCOPUS NORVICENSIS, vitâ functus,

Anno episcopatus , ætatis , die , A. D. .

HENRICUS BATHURST, LL. D.

In diocesi certè spectabili,

Plenâ tamen, in omnibus rebus

Angustiarum,

Relictus, utcunque omni laude dignus,

Et posthabitus aliis, non sine invidiâ quâdam,

Nominandis, in disponendis ecclesiæ opibus;

Atque hanc, scilicet, solam ob causam,

Quòd contendebat in senatu fortiter,

Ecclesiam Anglicanam

Non vi, non iniquis legibus,

Sed pace universæ ecclesiæ,

Caritate, pudore, libertate communi,

Istis denique consiliis,

Quæ, priusquàm ipse decesserat,

Ab iisdem viris, qui oppugnaverant,

Probata sunt et defensa,

Esse sustinendam:

Atqui jampridem, O Norvicensis ager!

Tibi condiscipulus Christi unusquisque
 Memori quotiès animo recenset
 Mores, et vitam, et consilia
 Viri infrà sepulti,
 Pietatem ejus dum agnoscit amabilem,
 Quæ, in morte, redintegrari voluit societatem
 Uxoris, ita merito dilectæ,
 Flet tamen, quòd, quem vivum sic colebat,
 Mortuum non tibi contigit habere !

Final approval of epitaph.

February 3rd, 1830.

My dear Henry,

Your epitaph is just arrived, and appears to me not only free from any objection, but entitled to commendation. A very heavy post.

H. N.

After the Bishop's decease the Archdeacon sent a copy of the above epitaph to Sir Henry Halford, Bart. and to Earl Grey. The former begged that the injustice which the Bishop had suffered from the tory party might not be chronicled on the tomb; and Earl Grey, though he observed that as the epitaph had been approved by the Bishop, he could say nothing, yet seemed to regret that it should involve censure and complaint; and accordingly the Archdeacon submitted another

epitaph to Earl Grey, which appeared to meet his approbation, and in which he suggested, as a mark of his approval it is to be presumed, the trifling alteration of three words, for which he recommended three other words, distinguished by italics, to be substituted ; which recommendation the Archdeacon of course adopted.

Juxtà terrestres esuvias
Dilectæ conjugis, infrà positas,
Jussu suo quiescit
 Quod mortale fuit HENRICI BATHURST, LL. D.,
 EPISCOPI NORVICENSIS, vitâ functi,
 Die Aprilis 5, anno episcopatus 32.
Ætatis 93, A. D. 1837.
 Viri, puro de fonte leporum, imbuti,
 Pii, probi, simplicis, simul atque cultissimi,
 Cujus de famâ non silebunt homines,
 Quippè ea ejus singularis benevolentia,
 Quæ tanto fœdere amoris
 Devinxit conjugem marito,
 Non solùm, propter indulgentiam,
 Per tot annos, parem, in utrisque
 Tàm benignis parentibus hic sepultis,
 Devinxit ei liberos memores.
 O ! donec erunt superstites,
 Eadem verò benevolentia usque eò valebat,
 Ut totum orbem terrarum amplecteretur,
 Faceretque eum, cum totius humani generis,
 Tum præcipuè eorum qui afflictis et oppressis erant,
 Amicum,

Eundemque eduxerit, in vitâ omni, strenuè
 In senatu potissimùm,
 Privatæ conscientiæ, publicæ libertatis,
 Jura a naturæ Deo tradita,
 Certo, utcunque, sibi ipsi, damno,
 Singulari *constantid*, vindicantem.

The King's health.

My dear Henry,

Tiny went this morning; and on Monday the 3rd of May it is my intention to leave London, probably for ever. Where Henrietta, Denis, and myself shall pitch our tent during the week they are preparing the house for us at Norwich, is a point not yet settled.

The accounts given by persons of different characters respecting the King's health are perfectly contradictory: a thorough-paced courtier maintains that his excellent frame is as free from bodily infirmity as his mind is incapable of moral, according to * * * * * ; but we democrats suspect that he is dropsical. Adieu! Love to your circle.

Yours, &c.

Truly and affectionately,

H. NORWICH.

London, April the 26th, 1830.

On the Archdeacon undertaking the office, which he did for a time, of Examining Chaplain.

My dear Henry,

Many thanks for your readiness to undertake the office of examining chaplain; an office which, I am happy to say, is not attended with as great a degree of trouble and anxiety as it was, not many years since; in consequence of gross neglect on the part of the candidates, of those studies more immediately connected with the clerical profession: this is not the case *now*, or at least not near so much so. With respect to the *books* usually employed on the occasion in question, they are very few—‘Grotius de Veritate,’ &c.; the ‘Greek Testament;’ and I frequently desired young men to read over two or three pages of the ‘Tractatus de Visitatione Infirmorum,’ bound up in the ‘Clergyman’s Instructor.’ By the way, this visitation of the sick is a very important, but I fear much neglected duty. In addition to what I have stated, some leading questions respecting *subscription* to the *Articles*, and to the *DOCTRINES* contained in them, you will of course think necessary; but to your own judgment this point may be safely left. I have only to mention, that

Two Compositions, one in *Latin*, the other in *English*, are expected from every one who presents himself to you for ordination: the subjects are, such as for instance, as infant baptism; the necessity of learning in a clergyman, &c. &c.

You may depend upon finding every thing you can want laid out upon the table in my study, so as to obviate any little difficulty which might otherwise occur. Adieu! Love to your circle.

Yours, &c.

Truly and affectionately,

H. NORWICH.

Norwich, May 18th, 1830.

Lynn dinner, and other matters.

My dear Henry,

You and my friend Fanny will be glad to hear that I got over the fatigue of my visit to Mrs. —, and the business of the *mausoleum*, much better than could reasonably be expected: unequal to any exertion, I was between three and four days upon the road, by which arrangement I reached London quite at my ease. Poor Mrs. —, from a well-intended but a misguided wish to comply with the directions of a crazy

husband, respecting his funeral, incurred an expense she could ill afford, and engaged in a troublesome undertaking beyond her strength. The Newmarket races made my sojourning at Chesterford less quiet than usual, and the posting more difficult: here however I am at last, and William has made every thing very comfortable for me.

I shall be glad to hear how the Lynn dinner went off; when you have leisure, let me know: my excellent friend experienced, I trust, the reception to which he is so fully entitled upon every account. I am no slave to *popular* applause, but I consider the decided opinion of men, consisting of persons taken from different *ranks* and belonging to different professions, as “non plausum, sed judicium.”

Before I left home * * * * * seemed determined to pitch his tent at *Norwich*; but he is so flighty and indecisive, that this plan may perhaps not be carried into effect; and sure I am that if it be adopted, he will find house-rent very dear, and the removal of a family very expensive: it is however the curse of us all to prefer buying wisdom at *our own expense*, rather than at the expense of *others*, however dear it may cost us.

James and Lady Caroline arrived yesterday

about half an hour after me. Adieu! Love to Fanny, not forgetting the Captain.

Yours, &c.

Truly and affectionately,

H. NORWICH.

London, Oct. 19th, 1830.

Public matters.

My dear Henry,

I have waited some days in hopes of being able to communicate intelligence more to be depended upon, than that which your friend in Piccadilly reports every hour to his customers: but I have waited in vain; nothing of consequence has *transpired*. The Duke seems determined to try what he can do with the present motley administration: he is, I understand, much *annoyed*, and Sir Robert Peel much *alarmed*, at the violent proceedings in Kent and in some other places. There is to be a *Congress* holden soon in *London*, as *the only place of SAFETY* which the present state of convulsed *Europe* affords: the object of this Congress will be to take into consideration the best means of averting a storm, which appears to be approaching and to threaten almost every na-

tion : for my own part, I think *we* shall ride it out, but not unless we furnish ourselves with *whig* pilots. James is to be presented by the Duke of Sussex on Wednesday. I can write no more. Adieu! Kind love to your circle.

Yours, &c.

Truly and affectionately,

H. NORWICH.

London, Nov. 1st, 1830.

O'Connell—An answer to a proposal that the Bishop should address a letter to the people of Ireland, expostulating against O'Connell's violence.

My dear Henry,

Even at that period of life when our ideas are unchecked by experience, "and fondly promise what the heart denies," I should have felt myself of by far too little consequence to undertake the task you mention : at eighty-six it is quite out of the question. Mr. O'Connell is given up, and justly, by every one ; but he may unfortunately prove a dangerous member of society, having run through ALL his fortune, "*et salvâ republicâ salvus esse, esse non potest.*"

The Duke's administration is not likely to last many weeks : he appears to be conscious of this, and is become *irritable* ; this irritation makes his

speeches both *confused* and injudicious : this was remarkably the case in the House of Lords, when he answered Lord Grey. I have not time to dwell longer upon politics.

The death of Mr. Lockwood gives me an opportunity, *at last*, of doing something for a relative of your dear mother. The other part of the arrangement I have to make requires a good deal of *thought*. The *population* of Lowestoffe is so much increased, and it is now so much resorted to as a public place, that a very ACTIVE CLERGYMAN, and one who has the interest of religion really at heart, is loudly called for : several inhabitants of the place, and persons in the neighbourhood, have earnestly requested me to bear this in mind : in truth, if it be not borne in mind, ecclesiastical patronage may as well be in the hands of the most profligate gambler in the kingdom, as at the disposal of a bishop. Adieu ! Kind love.

Yours, &c.

Truly and affectionately,

H. NORWICH.

London, Nov. 6, 1830.

New administration of Lord Grey—Vacancy of the living of Lowestoffe.

My dear Henry,

Every thing is nearly settled. Lord Grey finds it no easy matter to satisfy the clashing interest and different opinions of the innumerable individuals who either have or think they have claims to attention; and it must be still more difficult for him to fill the open mouths of such an host of applicants. *You* will, I trust, *in time*, derive benefit from this, by me (upon public grounds) long-wished-for change.

Before I made any arrangement respecting the preferment vacant by the death of Mr. Lockwood, I turned over the subject in every point of view, and felt anxious to consult, in *some degree*, the credit of the established church, and the interest of religion.

Lowestoffe, from the great increase of population, requires a very active, zealous clergyman, who will not think it sufficient to appear once a week in a pulpit and a reading-desk: several persons requested me to bear in mind this truth. Of Mr. C. I know nothing; but believing him peculiarly fit for the situation, I made him the offer of the living, and am glad I have done so; many friends, whose judgments I value, having

blamed me for attending too much to my own relatives. Adieu! Love to Fanny.

Yours, &c.

H. NORWICH.

London, Nov. 19, 1830.

Public and Church affairs.

My dear Henry,

Our kind-hearted friend Denis would rejoice to comply with any request of yours; but had he interest in the least degree among the leading men in his profession, he would not, at the end of five-and-twenty years' service, be only a captain,—not to mention, that till the state both of Ireland and England is more quiet, every man should be at his post. It gives me pleasure to hear from different quarters that the storm is likely to blow over; and I hope that out of confusion ORDER will arise, and an order favourable to the labouring poor. Bishops must lower their fines, the clergy their tithes, and laymen their rents.

The public papers have noticed the plan you mention as contemplated by Lord Brougham; but he said not a syllable of it in his speech, at the delivery of which I was present. The smaller

livings in the gift of the Chancellor have most assuredly been made subservient to parliamentary jobs as long as I can remember, and this with little or no exception.

In my opinion, both religion and the established church would be great gainers, if those who are acquainted with the character of the clergy * were *consulted*, at least, by *one* who can know nothing of their characters; and it would certainly be a very generous sacrifice of patronage on the part of a Chancellor. I am perfectly aware that Bishops, like other men, may be influenced by improper motives, but, I trust, not more so. Adieu! Love to Fanny and Henry.

Yours, &c.

Truly and affectionately,

H. NORWICH.

London, Dec. 9, 1830.

* This alludes to the promise made by Lord Brougham to place the Chancellor's small livings at the disposal of the Bishops,—an arrangement which he constantly broke; and in the case of the Bishop of Norwich, who alone was from him entitled to the compliment, he actually appointed to three livings, after the Bishop, in confidence that Lord Brougham would keep to his word, had nominated individuals to them.

Public matters.

My dear Henry,

You will be glad to hear that I am tolerably well, notwithstanding the "varium et mutabile" of our climate.

Lord Grey will have enough to do when parliament meets in February: the attack upon him is reserved for that period; but he will, I trust, be able to stand the shock: in the mean time, he is, I understand from his friends, *harassed* and *veered* by innumerable applications for preferment, from those whom he is anxious not to refuse, and unable to gratify. From the little experience I *have*, I can readily believe that he considers patronage as an evil. Love to your circle.

Yours, &c.

Truly and affectionately,

H. NORWICH.

London, Dec. 22, 1830.

CHAPTER XXIV.

The year 1831.

Extract from a letter dated February 7th, 1831.

“ LORD ALBEMARLE sat with me yesterday half an hour: nothing could be more cordial than his expressions of regard for you, and his wish to be of use.”

Speaking of Lord Grey he adds:—

I am not without hopes that he will get triumphantly through all his difficulties; though some, who are almost as partial to him as I am, think that his friend Lord Althorp does not attempt to cleanse the Augean stable with the determination of a Hercules, but, on the contrary, falls short of what the public expected. The public, however, as it appears to me, expects too much. In the course of a month, matters will be cleared up. Love to Fanny and Anna.

Yours, &c.

Truly and affectionately,

H. NORWICH.

Reform.

My dear Henry,

The *Reform* question will, I *hope* and *believe*, be carried on *Monday*, but not without difficulty.

Yours, &c.

H. NORWICH.

London, March 5, 1831.

My dear Henry,

Both sides are confident; but from the most accurate information I can obtain, *we* shall carry the question by a majority of *thirty at least*: *this very evening* the point will be decided. Should my prophecy be realised, you shall have a line by to-morrow's post. * * * Love to your circle.

Yours, &c.

Truly and affectionately.

London, March 9, 1831.

Lord Albemarle's kindness—Lord Grey's good words.

My dear Henry,

Enclosed I return Lord Albemarle's very friendly letter to you: nothing (as it appears to

me) can be more satisfactory than what our excellent Premier says, considering the innumerable and importunate applicants by whom he is worried.

Yours, &c.

Truly and affectionately,

H. NORWICH.

London, March 12, 1831.

A domestic matter.

My dear Henry,

Your letter to Mr. Sissmore shall be forwarded by this day's post.

I shall rejoice to see Fanny and my friend Anna on the day you mention; and your company will gratify me whenever you can conveniently come.

I continue *tolerably* well, but have been sadly harassed by the accounts I receive from Cheltenham respecting the health and spirits of unfortunate Caroline: her poor little boys must be wretchedly attended to.

Our friends carried their measure last night by only *one vote*. * * *

Offer of the archbishopric of Dublin to the Bishop of Norwich, and the answer of the Bishop of Norwich.

My dear Lord Bishop,

I have just heard of the death of the Archbishop of Dublin. I have so little hope that you will be induced to succeed him, that I feel some scruple in making you the offer: on the other hand, I cannot lose the opportunity of showing my respect for you personally, and my sense of the great public profit which would be derived from the appointment to that see, of a prelate distinguished for so many virtues and such high personal qualifications. To the people of Ireland, the known principles and uniform conduct of your Lordship could not fail to recommend your appointment as the best which could be proposed.

It is with these feelings, therefore, that I venture to make your Lordship the offer of proposing your name to the King, as the fittest person to succeed to the vacant archbishopric of Dublin, if you should be inclined to accept it. At all events, I know you will receive this communication as a proof of the high respect and sin-

cere attachment, with which I am, my dear
Lord Bishop,

Yours most faithfully,

GREY.

August 21st, 1831.

Answer.

My dear Lord Grey,

Erasmus very late in life was offered by the Emperor Ferdinand any thing which he might wish to name. The answer which he made to his correspondent will please you:—" *Utinam hoc " mihi dixisset summus ille monarcha Christus : " permulta forent quæ ab eo petam, et nihil magis " quàm mentem eo dignam : a rege Ferdinando vix " video quod petam : dignitas mihi nihil aliud est " quàm sarcina equo collabenti.*" Without affecting the abilities of this eminent man, it is no great effort at eighty-seven years of age to copy his moderation ; I shall therefore only say, that to have such an offer from a person whose private and public character I have for so many years sincerely loved and respected, is to me far more gratifying than any piece of preferment in the united kingdom. If, however, consistently with the arrangements you may propose, it should be in

your power to give my eldest son an Irish bishopric, his moral and literary attainments will not disgrace the appointment; and were I writing to most men in your situation, I should dwell upon the preferment which he has to give up, and it is very considerable.

Believe me

Your much obliged and affectionate,

H. NORWICH.

August 22nd, 1831.

Will not this offer of the archbishopric of Dublin seem of less value, when the public are informed that instead of complying with this recommendation of the Bishop as to his son, who, it is seen, fought the same battle for Ireland by his father's side, and against whom, it will appear from what follows, that Lord Grey had nothing to allege, (unless indeed it be the very zeal which he had displayed in his father's cause,)—will it not seem very affronting to the son, not only to be passed by, as he was, under such peculiar circumstances, and when not only the archbishopric of Dublin but the see of Killaloe also was vacant, and to have the son of an Irish tory Bishop, and of a tory family, Dr. Knox, preferred to the see of Killaloe, and a Dr. Whately rum-maged up from the diocese of his own father by

Lord Brougham's interest, in opposition to the very person whom he had selected on Queen Caroline's going to St. Paul's, to perform the most delicate and dangerous office; and who did it to the satisfaction of all parties, as appeared when the sermon (though not preached) was printed? Was it not vexatious to see Dr. Whately placed in the see of Dublin, to the exclusion, even from an inferior see, of Archdeacon Bathurst, whose mother was an Irishwoman, and of one of the best families in Ireland; who himself had been for years constantly at his post, as Lord Lansdowne calls it, in Ireland's cause; and who was the son of Ireland's ecclesiastical champion, Dr. Bathurst, Bishop of Norwich, and not in himself objectionable? And all this was the more surprising, because Lord Grey immediately afterwards expressed his regret that an immediate opportunity had not occurred of serving Archdeacon Bathurst. Afterwards, when the see of Waterford fell, it was not filled up, though the Irish Church Bill was not then passed; and when the bishopric of Limerick fell, Dr. Knox was translated—in spite of the most handsome recommendations from distinguished clergymen like Lord Bayning, who wrote the Archdeacon a most kind letter, in testimony to his opinion of him;

and in spite of the following letter from the Rev. Chancellor Yonge, which the Archdeacon sent to Lord Grey. And matters were so managed, that there should be no vacancy whereby Archdeacon Bathurst might be served, as the Bishop of Clonfert became (when Dr. Knox was translated) Bishop of Killaloe also.

Letter from Chancellor Yonge, in favour of Archdeacon Bathurst.

Swaffham, Dec. 22nd, 1833.

My dear Sir,

I have just heard that you have some chance of being promoted to the bishopric of Limerick ; and I have so great a regard for you, that I should be glad to do any thing that was likely to promote your welfare and happiness ; but I really think, whatever your opinion may be at present, that the bishopric of Limerick would be very far from promoting that end. If I were your greatest enemy, and wished to do you an injury, I should say to you, “ Go, and be Bishop of Limerick.” In the present state of Ireland it appears to me that the Church is in a most dangerous and tottering situation ; and I should be very sorry to do any thing to send a friend of

mine there, for whom I entertained the friendship I do for you, especially at the expense of good preferment, and an honourable and dignified situation in our own Church. However, I know that you see this matter in a different light from myself, and I can very sincerely assure you, that both I and the clergy in general would be *extremely* happy to hear of any thing that was likely to promote your happiness.

I beg my respects to Mrs. Bathurst and family.

I am, my dear Sir,

Very truly yours,

WILLIAM YONGE.

The following letter refers to an interview which the Bishop had with Lord Grey, after the disposal of the sees of Dublin and Killaloe, without appointing the Archdeacon to any vacant appointment.

My dear Henry,

You will naturally feel anxious to know the result of my late interview with Lord Grey; and here it follows verbatim:—I should tell you in the first place, that he was so desirous to ascertain *exactly* my own views, and the situation

of my *family*, that, notwithstanding his innumerable avocations, he contrived last week to have a quarter of an hour's conversation with Mr. Coke, knowing, as he told me, his sincere friendship for me; thinking highly also of his sound practical understanding. During their short colloquy, Mr. Coke said to him, with his accustomed frankness, "Why did you not offer him *Worcester*? he might, perhaps, have accepted *that*." The reply was made with great earnestness and sensibility—"Why did the Bishop not ask me? there is nothing *in my power* that I would not do, to gratify him." In consequence of this cordial declaration, Mr. Coke advised me to call upon him: on Monday I did so, and he was so kind as to receive me, though up to his chin in papers. "*Ut veni coram*,"—being unwilling either to worry or detain him,—I said, as briefly as possible, that I had been informed of his cordial expressions of regard for me, and I added that there certainly *was* a time when the see of Worcester would have been a *very* important object to me, on account of my own personal ease and comfort, and as affording the means of making a more ample provision for my children; but that it was *now* too late, as I found myself declining rapidly, and should be sorry to have him throw away, in great measure, that patronage, upon which he must, of course,

have so many claims. I then observed, that I had two sons, whom, if he could serve, it would be doing me a great favour ; and I took the liberty of suggesting to him, that an *Irish* mitre would be acceptable to you, and that probably there were fewer competitors for preferment in *that country* than in *England*. He repeated his former declaration respecting his sincere wish to gratify me to THE UTMOST OF HIS POWER. Matters seem to be at last in a good train : it will, however, be advisable, I think, that you should rest quietly upon your oars, and not be impatient if more powerful claimants are attended to before you. If you have as much pleasure from *receiving* the information I have given, as I have in communicating it, my labour will not be lost, though labour it certainly is to write so much under circumstances such as mine. Kind love to Fanny, not forgetting Anna.

Yours, &c.

Truly and affectionately,

H. NORWICH.

47, Bryanstone Square,

Oct. 20, 1831.

N. B. The Archdeacon has seen enough given away since 1831, and waited a pretty reasonable time.

Extract of a letter about the same time, relating to the Church.

The Bishop of Winchester is now considered to be out of danger, but his life is far from being a good one. Lord Grey, I was informed, would have made me the offer of that see; but, of course, this offer, however kind, would have been of no use *personally to me*. I could, notwithstanding, without selfishness or impropriety, have requested that my *recommendation* to a small portion of the extensive patronage should be regarded by the person fixed upon for so valuable an appointment. It is not impossible that something of this kind may occur during the short period of my days: I therefore am anxious to know *decidedly* whether you adhere to your design of putting in a claim for an *Irish mitre*, or prefer a *stall* in *England*.

About this time a county meeting took place in Norfolk, when Sir Thomas Beevor attacked Mr. Coke for having a sinecure place in a light-house. Sir Thomas Beevor had been known to Archdeacon Bathurst since he was ten years old, and fearing lest Sir Thomas should propose something on the radical side, the Archdeacon had asked him to breakfast with him at Norwich, on the morning of the meeting, with a view to persuade him not to introduce any unpleasant discussion.

Sir Thomas agreed not to oppose the proceedings of the meeting, but expressed his determination to question Mr. Coke respecting the light-house, which the Archdeacon did all he could to dissuade him from ; in spite of which, however, Sir Thomas Beavor did moot the question ; and the Archdeacon and Sir Thomas having been seen together, the report arose that the Archdeacon, who was not on very good terms with Mr. Coke, had urged him on : in consequence of which the Archdeacon was vexed, lest his father should suppose that such a thing could be true ; and he wrote to Sir Thomas Beavor, appealing to him as to the falsity of the report ; and the following is the correspondence, which, in justice to the son of the subject of these memoirs, whose fortunes have been so bound up with his father's, is here given :—

November 29th, 1831.

My dear Sir Thomas,

Some of my enemies have spread about a report that I set you on to make your attack on Mr. Coke at the last county meeting. I am sure you will do me the justice to enable me again, as I did when I appealed to you in court, to assure them that I not only did not set you on, but both with respect to Mr. Coke and the general proceedings of the meeting, that the great object of

my conversation with you was to induce you to let every thing pass off as quietly as possible, and without acrimony or opposition.

Believe me, I am almost ashamed, circumstanced as you are in domestic affliction, with which I sincerely sympathise, to trouble you with this matter; but the candour and manliness of your character towards others, as well as what is due to your own self-respect, will I am sure afford my excuse for troubling you with this matter.

The unfortunate difference which exists between Mr. Coke and myself, whatever I may think of the bearings of it, would never induce me to do any thing underhand or unhandsome; nor are you the man to be the tool, were it attempted, of another's resentment.

I am, dear Sir Thomas,

Your faithful servant,

HENRY BATHURST.

My dear Sir,

I am sorry that you should have been called to account for an act which, whether good or bad, was wholly and solely my own, and of which three hours before the meeting you had not even the most distant idea. I should have thought that to those who know any thing of you, your

own declaration would have been sufficient; but as this seems not to be the case, I beg to repeat what I stated to Mr. Keppel at the meeting;—viz. that when I stated to you the course I intended to pursue, (which I did, not that I expected any support or encouragement from you, but that not to have done it would, under the circumstances, have been a want of common courtesy,) you made use of all the arguments in your power to dissuade me from my purpose. With best compliments to Mrs. Bathurst, who I fear will hardly forgive me for the trouble I have undesignedly brought you into,

I am

Yours sincerely,

THOMAS B. BEEVOR.

Hayham, 2nd December, 1831.

END OF VOL. I.

296.
5

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